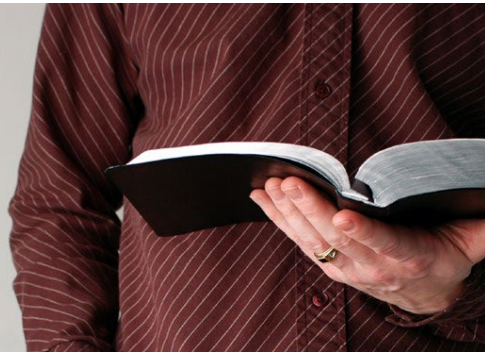


How to Interpret the Bible and How to Study the Bible for Yourself



Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Key Verse: *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”* 2 Timothy 2:15, NIV

The Four Parts to Bible Study

There are no shortcuts to correctly understanding the Bible. Almost instinctively, when you read the Bible, you go through the following four steps. Major problems of understanding, interpreting, and applying occur when you do not go through these steps thoroughly, or if you make mistakes, or if you do not understand the process.

By the way, these four steps work in all forms of written and verbal communication, but they are especially important in understanding the Bible because we believe the Bible—when correctly understood—is authoritative. Our task in this class is to help you work through these steps correctly and with real understanding.

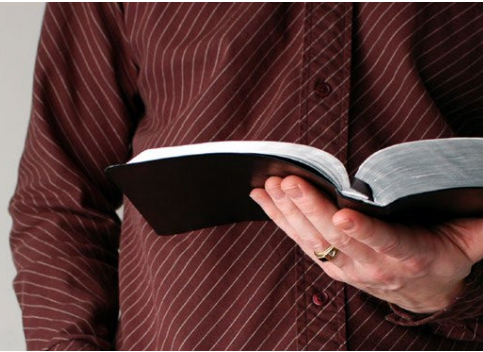
1. O _____.
2. I _____.
3. C _____.
4. A _____.

Principles and Techniques to Help you Learn to Use the Bible Correctly

1. Use a Bible t_____ that you understand and that is somewhat c_____. I personally find it best to use at least t_____.
2. Start with the understanding that the Bible—when correctly understood—is a _____. It is common to find a_____ in various ways. We believe that the last of the following four is the proper place to find a _____.
 - a. T _____.
 - b. R _____.
 - c. O _____.
 - d. S _____.
3. The best tool for interpreting the Bible is t_____.
4. Observe and understand what type of literature you are reading, for there are many types of writings in the Bible, and they are not all to be interpreted in the same way. Here are some examples:
 - a. H _____.
 - b. P _____.
 - c. P_____. (Sometimes, it is hard to know if a passage is h_____ or a p_____ or another figure of speech.)
 - d. A _____.
 - e. C_____. (Always ask the question: Who is this c_____ given to?)
 - f. P_____. (Always ask the question: Who is this p_____ given to?)

*The truth is that correctly interpreting the Bible takes real work,
thought and prayer!*

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