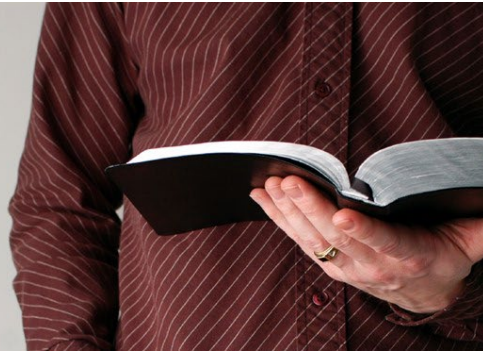


How to Interpret the Bible and How to Study the Bible for Yourself



Wednesday, July 27, 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 (Review)

1. **Observe.** Words, names, meanings, author, context, etc.
2. **Interpret.** Ask what did the passage mean to the author?
3. **Correlate** with other passages of Scripture.
4. **Apply.** Ask, “What is God saying to me as a result?”

Principles and Techniques (Review)

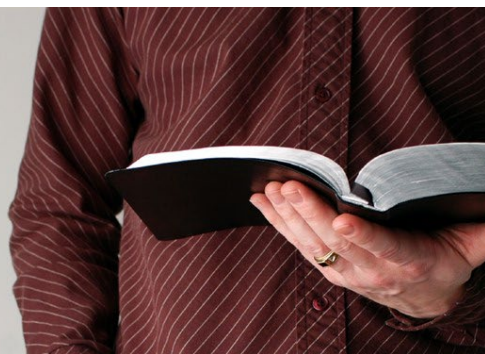
1. Use a contemporary Bible translation you understand.
2. Understand that the Bible is authoritative. Don’t find authority in tradition, reason, or other writings.
3. The best tool for interpreting the Bible is the Bible itself.
4. Understand the type of literature. There are many types in the Bible, and each is interpreted differently:
 - a. History.
 - b. Proverbs.
 - c. Parables.
 - d. Apocalyptic literature.
 - e. Commands. (Who is the command given to?)
 - f. Promises. (Who is the promise given to?)

More Principles for Proper Interpretation

5. Never take a t_____, a v_____, or even a p_____ out of c_____. Here are some very common examples leading to wrong understandings and wrong interpretations:
 - a. Deuteronomy 30:19.
 - b. Luke 11:9.
 - c. Matthew 18:20.
 - d. Jeremiah 29:11.
6. Biblical e_____ are a_____ only with accompanied by a c_____. (This is a major problem when using the Old Testament—it’s one reason why preachers & teachers like to use the Old Testament—they can find an example for almost anything they want to say and so it’s easy to make interpretative mistakes.) However, it is also true of the New Testament. Think of the e_____ we *shouldn’t* follow:
 - a. Abraham.
 - b. Moses.
 - c. David.
 - d. Even Jesus.
7. Interpret w_____ and p_____ in light of their meaning at the time of the a_____.
 - a. Proverbs 29:18.
 - b. Matthew 25:1-13.

Correctly interpreting the Bible takes real work, real study, real thought, and real prayer. Since it is our authority, we need to make sure that we do it correctly!

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