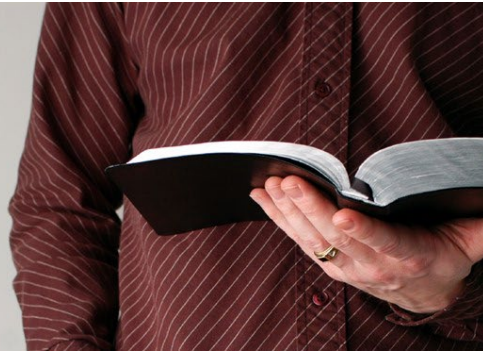


How to Interpret the Bible and How to Study the Bible for Yourself



Wednesday, August 17, 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. 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. Different parts of the Bible are treated differently: History, Parables, Apocalyptic literature, Commands, and Promises.
5. Never take a thought, a verse, or a paragraph out of context.
6. Biblical examples are authoritative only when accompanied by a command.
7. Interpret the meaning of words at the time of the author.
8. A correct application is based on a correct interpretation.
9. Old Testament passages must always be interpreted in light of the New Testament because revelation is progressive.
10. When two doctrines in the Bible appear to be contradictory, accept both as part of your trust in the authority of the Bible.

Principles and Techniques (Tonight’s Lesson)

11. A good understanding of Biblical h_____ and even basic g _____ is essential to understanding the Bible.
12. Scripture has one primary m_____ and should be taken l _____ unless the context indicates otherwise.

NOTE: The context may lead you to interpret figuratively rather than literally.

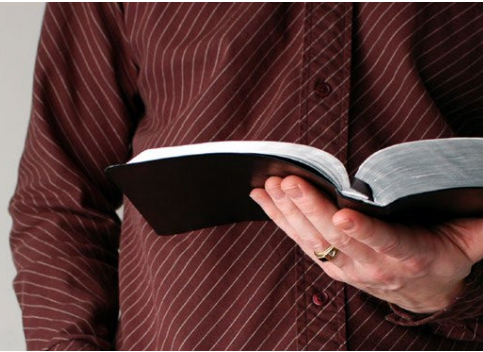
- a. When an i _____ object describes a l _____, the statement may be figurative.
- b. When a word is used d _____ than its normal usage, it may be figurative.
- c. P _____ and a _____ passages may be interpreted figuratively.
- d. There are passages which are d _____ to determine. Are they l _____ or figurative? Show g _____ to those who believe differently.

13. Ultimately, the Bible can only be understood when s _____ and the H _____ are present.
14. The primary purpose of the Bible is to c _____ lives and not to l _____.
15. Every Christian has the r _____ to r _____ and c _____ i _____ the Bible for t _____ and cannot rely on others.

Where do we go from here? Pastor Jack will miss next week, and Rob Compere will teach. When we come back, we will jump directly into *How to Study the Bible*—starting with Assumptions and Tools. Each week, we will O-I-C-A a passage around the table.

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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