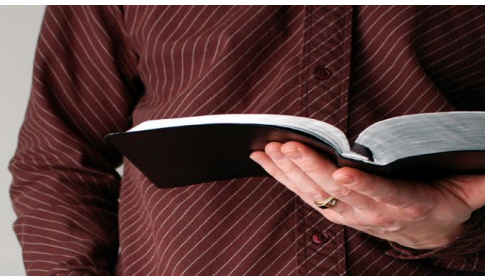


How to Interpret the Bible and How to Study the Bible for Yourself



Wednesday, September 7, 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.
3. The best tool for interpreting the Bible is the Bible itself.
4. Different parts of the Bible are interpreted differently.
5. Never take a thought, a verse, or a paragraph out of context.
6. Examples are not commands.
7. Interpret the meaning of words at the time of the author.
8. A correct application is based on a correct interpretation.
9. OT passages are interpreted in light of the New Testament.
10. Accept apparent contradictions as both being true.
11. A good understanding of Biblical history is essential.
12. Scripture has one primary meaning and should be taken literally unless the context indicates otherwise.
13. Salvation & the Holy Spirit are needed for full understanding.
14. The purpose is to change lives and not to increase knowledge.
15. Every Christian has the responsibility to read and correctly interpret the Bible for themselves and cannot rely on others.

How To Study The Bible (Part 3 - Tonight's Lesson)

1. Start with prayer, asking for God's help.
2. Start with correct assumptions: The Bible is true and is God's most common way of speaking. He loves me and wants to talk to me. I seek to hear God's voice and not my own.
3. Have some good tools available. A Bible dictionary, a concordance, a Topical Bible, and a Theology are helpful.
4. Start with a plan. My suggestions for a new believer or for someone new to serious study:
 - a. A s _____ .
 - b. The G _____ .
 - c. An e _____ .
 - d. G _____ .
 - e. P _____ .

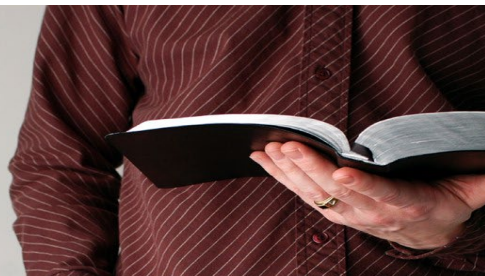
Let's practice on Pastor Jack's passage for Sunday, Luke 11:29-32:

²⁹As the crowds increased, Jesus said, “This is a wicked generation. It asks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. ³⁰For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation. ³¹The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom; and now something greater than Solomon is here. ³²The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and now something greater than Jonah is here.

1. Observe: What words/ideas will help you understand?
2. Interpret: How does defining those help you interpret?
3. Correlate: What topics should be considered?
4. Apply: What is God saying to you?

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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