

How to Study the Bible

The Bible does not yield its fruit to the lazy.

Step 1

OBSERVATION - What do I see?

a. Learn to Read

Look for:

Terms - Keywords, repeated words

Atmosphere - Notice the settings and feelings from the biblical text Cause

& Effect - Will something happen because of what is said?

Read Repeatedly - Read entire book in one sitting

Read Selectively

Who?, What?, Where?, When?, Why?, Wherefore? (What now?)

Read Purposefully - Look for themes

Read Telescopically - Pay attention to context

b. 6 Things to Look For

Things that are Emphasized

Things that are Repeated

Things that are Related

Things that are Alike & Unlike

Things that are True to Life

c. Word Studies

What does the word mean?

Does it have multiple meanings?

I.e. Temptation and Test are the same greek word

How is it being used?

In context with the rest of the sentence and paragraph

Is it used in the same way throughout scripture?

d. The Big Picture

Summarize your Observation

“It is impossible to apply the word of God until you understand it” p.199

Step 2

Interpretation - Re-creating the experience

1. What does it Mean?

There may be many applications but only one interpretation.

2 Peter 1:20-21

2. Five Keys to Interpretation

- a. Content - the raw material, the database, with which you will interpret the text.
- b. Context - Consider the verses around the particular verse, the paragraph, author, occasion
- c. Comparison - Comparing scripture with scripture - What did the word studies reveal?
- d. Culture - Learn the culture at the time - Not culture of today - The Last Supper
- e. Consultation - Using Secondary Resources
Concordances - Exhaustive NOT Abridged
Bible Dictionaries - An Expository Dictionary of the NT
Atlases - Maps - Moody Atlas of Bible Lands, Zondervan Pictorial Bible Atlas
Commentaries
Study Bibles

These are the things to consider when understanding the scriptures and what the author was trying to say.

Don't just own a bible but own the words within so that we know what they mean.

Step 3

Application

1. Questions to ask oneself.

- a. What do I plan to do about it?
- b. What difference will it make in my life?
- c. How will I do it?

2. Don't just settle for knowledge - Apply it to our lives so that it changes us

- a. Apply it to all parts of our lives, deeply and not superficially
- b. Make a real change
- c. Don't rationalize, repent
- d. Don't talk the talk, walk it

To know and not to do is sin. James 4:17

3. When the introduction of biblical truth and application of God's word into our lives occurs there's transformation.

Person

Old Beliefs
Old Values
Old Behaviors
Old Habits
Old Relationships
Old Outlook
Old Dreams
Old Job/Career Plans
Old Character
Old Morals
Old Desires/Passions
Old Language

Same Person

New Beliefs
New Values
New Behaviors
New Habits
New Relationships
New Outlook
New Dreams
New Job/Career Plans
New Character
New Morals
New Desires/Passions
New Language

4. 4 Steps to Application

a. Know

The Text - Know what it says and means
Yourself - 1 Tim 4:16

b. Relate

To every aspect of our life

c. Meditate

Think, Memorize

d. Practice

Take a spiritual inventory and apply what you have learned. The word of God experienced is the word of God enjoyed.

5. 9 Questions to Ask

Is there an example for me to follow?
Is there a sin to avoid?
Is there a promise to claim?
Is there a prayer to repeat?
Is there a command to obey?
Is there a condition to be met?
Is there a verse to memorize?
Is there an error to mark? - in my life
Is there a challenge to face?

When we are transformed then the world around us is transformed as well.

Resources

Blueletterbible.org

Biblegateway.com

Strong's or Young's Exhaustive Concordance

Bible Dictionary - An Expository Dictionary of the NT