

How to Get the Most Out of the Bible

Hermeneutics is the _____ and _____ of biblical interpretation.

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth”. (2 Tim 2:15)

Principles of Understanding Scripture:

Principle 1: _____

Principle 2: _____

Principle 3: _____

Notes:

Resources:

1. blueletterbible.org
2. Desiringgod.com - Look at the Book
3. RC Sproul - Knowing Scripture
4. 40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible - Robert Plummer
5. Understanding and Applying the Bible - Robertson McQuilkin

Practice

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

How to Read Your Bible

What am I to do?

Daily read a chapter from a selected letter (John, Matthew, Genesis, Exodus...).

How am I to do this?

S- Scripture

O- observation

A- Application

P- Prayer

Scripture- A book of the Bible is chosen and you read at least 1 chapter a day.
(ex. John 1)

Observation- This is the part in which you are engaging in understanding.

What is God telling us from this book, this chapter, this passage?

A helpful starting point for observation is to use the 5 W's (Who, What, Where, When, Why and How).

Examples: (John 1)

What does it mean that Jesus is called the "Word", or "Lamb of God"?

Who is writing this letter? Who is the author writing to?

Where are they? Where are they going?

Why does John call Jesus the Word, Son of God, King of Israel?

How can we know who God is? How is Jesus, grace and truth?

*To successfully observe the text, write out the main idea in one or two sentences.

Application- In this section you take the main idea of the text and apply it to your

own life. The Bible isn't meant to be a textbook, in the sense we read it and get a bigger head. We are meant to read it, understand it, and apply it. Our goal is to be like Jesus!

Application is meant to be *specific, doable, and Christ-like*.

Specific- It gives me a clear way to act.

Doable- It is something I can do right now.

Christ-like- It challenges us to be more like Jesus.

What stood out?- John says that Jesus is the Lamb of God. Meaning that Jesus is the one who died for me so that I may have life.

Application- Pray that God might give me an opportunity to share my faith this week and tell them of how Jesus lived, died, and rose so that I can have life.

What stood out? Jesus is called the Messiah, King of Israel, Son of God all in the first chapter of the Gospel of John.

Application- I will spend a few minutes thinking about how Jesus is the true Messiah, the one who was promised from the Old Testament. How Jesus was and is the true King that they had always hoped for. How Jesus is the Son of God, the one who fully shows us who God is. Jesus is worthy to be worshiped.

Prayer- After you sought to understand the text, and after you have come up with at least one way to apply it, we come to ask God to help us.

Example of a Prayer- "God as I read today in John 1 that Jesus is the Lamb of God, the only one to take away my sin and the sin of others. I know I should share this good news with others. But to be honest I am scared. God comfort me, give me boldness, and give me the words to say".

Example of a Prayer- "God as I read John 1 what really stuck out to me was who Jesus is. Jesus is the Messiah, King of Israel and the Son of God. I know I don't have the best of understanding but I want to know more. God give me the understanding that I may continue to worship Jesus for who he is".