

BECOMING FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST



Christian Life Center, A Foursquare Church | 951-689-6785 | www.DiscipleshipDevelopment.org

PART 3C | CORRECT BIBLE INTERPRETATION



How can I understand God's Word from God's point of view? What methods of study should I follow? What tools are available to help me? How can I grow in spiritual understanding as I read God's Word? These are questions this series will answer.

The Bible

1. The Bible was written in different lands over a period of 1,500 years by more than 40 authors from all walks of life. The Bible is unified because it was written by one Author. (2 Peter 1:19-21)
 - It is a library of 66 books which are not all categorized in chronological order but grouped according to type of writing: the Law, History, Poetry, Major and Minor Prophets, Gospels and Historical Book, Epistles (letters), and the NT Apocalyptic book.
2. The Old Testament is the record of God's relationship with people *before and in the Law*. The New Testament is the record of God's relationship with people *after Jesus' Birth, Sacrifice and Resurrection*.
 - The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed; the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. (Missler)
3. The Bible is the unfolding story of how God acted in human history to establish His Kingdom, to save mankind and glorify Himself. **Jesus Christ is the Center of it all!** (Genesis 3:15; John 5:39)



We can understand Scripture better as we develop a personal and growing relationship with Christ.

1 John 5:20 *...we have seen and know by personal experience that the Son of God has actually come to this world, and has given us understanding and insight so that we may progressively and personally know Him... His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. (John 17:3)*

Online

Click the QR code above to view the [main Institute course](#).

The code on the left takes you to the [current lesson online](#).

Memory verses

John 5:39; 1 John 5:20

Answers

Say; Mean; Relate; Apply

Next week

"It's All About Jesus!"

Main thought that the Holy Spirit revealed to me...

Reading Scripture in Context

Additional thoughts...

1. **Important!** God's Word was expressed in the vocabulary and thought patterns of the people in Bible times and cultures. If they were going to hear God's message, it could only have come through events and in the language they would have understood.
 - *Therefore, Scripture can never mean what it did not first mean to the original recipients, hearers, and readers.*
2. Much of the Bible can be understood by knowing whether a Scripture is dealing with...
 - The Bible's Highest Ideals and Standards, which have top priority such as the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20.
 - A cultural regulation, which is not necessarily meant to apply to all people under all circumstances.
3. The context of a scripture can be understood by the passages that precede and follow it. Three important aspects:
 - Eisegesis | The popular but *incorrect practice* of reading our own preconceived notions, biases, and understanding *into* Bible text.
 - Exegesis | Discovering the writer's original and intended meaning.
 - Hermeneutics | Bringing contemporary relevance to ancient texts, the Bible's meaning for today.

Basic Steps For Interpretation and Application

Step 1 | **PRAY** and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Step 2 | Determine whether the Scripture you are studying is history, poetry, prophecy, narrative. Do your best to understand the historical and cultural setting by using study guides such the Halley's Bible Handbook.

Step 3 | What does it _____? Describe what is happening or what the writer is plainly saying. Outline the story plot, narrative, etc. What is the key verse or thought? (Hayford's Bible Handbook)

Step 4 | What does it _____? What is the writer saying to the original hearers? (Zodiatas Hebrew-Greek Study Bible)

Step 5 | How does it _____ to other Scriptures? Link to major themes and teachings of Scripture. An example is Numbers 21:8-9 and John 3:14-15. (Nave's Topical Bible; Foundations of Pentecostal Theology)

Step 6 | How does it _____ to me today? What are the important applicable truths for us today? What does this passage suggest I should be or do as a believer in Christ? (James 1:22-25; Hebrews 11:6)



Exercise... Read the small book of Philemon, click the QR code and go to page 4, then answer the questions that follow this pattern above. (Sheets also available in the foyer)