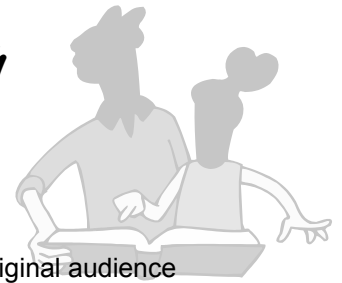


How to Read the Bible for All its Worth

Introduction: The Need to Interpret



Definitions

Exegesis – to carefully study the Bible to determine its intended meaning to the original audience

Hermeneutics – taking the intended message for the original audience and translating it to today's audience (you)

Approaching the text

Everyone is an _____! We bring many things with us to the text. Our backgrounds, knowledge, and abilities can all aid us in interpreting scriptures. However, we need to make sure we don't bring a new _____ with us.

God's Word is for _____. However, it was first God's Word to the original _____.

- We may get specific _____ if we have the same _____.
- We may get specific _____ to apply if we have a _____ situation.

Understanding the text (Exegesis)

There are Three Keys to Understanding the Bible:

- 1) Carefully _____ the text
- 2) Asking the right _____ (and knowing where to find the _____)
- 3) _____ until the Lord opens the meaning up to you
 - a) _____ for understanding
 - b) Keep _____ steps 1 and 2.

What Questions Should I Ask?

- 1) What is the _____ of the Passage?

Example: Why did Jesus tell the disciples to look for a man carrying a pitcher of water as a sign in Mark 14:13?

- 2) What is the _____ of the Passage?

Example: Does 1 Corinthians 6:12, "All things are lawful for me ..." teach that it is okay to have an affair?

- 3) What are the meanings of the _____?

Example: What does the word, "peculiar" mean in Titus 2:14?

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4) Are there other _____ in the Bible that help us to understand this passage

Example: How can you harmonize Luke 14:26, which tells us we must hate our parents, spouses, children and even ourselves if we are to be Christ's disciple and Ephesians 6:2, which tells us to honor our parents?

Where do I find the Answers?

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Answers</i>
	Atlas, History Books, Study Bibles, Bible Dictionaries, Some good commentaries
	Reading the surrounding chapter(s) and the entire book. Outlines from Study Bibles can also help.
	A More Modern Version of the Bible, Bible Dictionaries
	Topical Resources like the Treasury of Scripture Knowledge and Nave's Topical Reference

We are only as good as our tools – the most important is an accurate, understandable _____.

Applying the text to our lives (Hermeneutics)

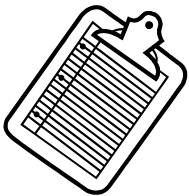
To apply the Bible to our lives today, we must understand how it applied to the _____ audience.

Find the underlying principle in passages that don't have a clear application to today.

Example: How does Proverbs 22:28 apply to us today? How could it be misused if we didn't seek to understand what it meant to the original audience?

This process is important when we approach _____ text, not just the more difficult ones.

Next week's assignment:



- Read Chapter Two: *The Basic Tool, A Good Translation*
- Continue to memorize the names of the first 22 books of the bible (Genesis through Song of Solomon) – we will move on next week!
- *there will be an incentive for memorizing all 66 books in order!*
- Answer the following question using your new skills:
 - At least one denomination refuses to pay their Pastors based on 1 Timothy 3:3. Do you agree with their understanding of this passage? Why or why not?