

Lesson 6

Part 2

Applying What the Bible Teaches

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew verb “*To hear*” or “to hearken to” also means “*To Obey.*”

I Jn 1:6

6 *If we say that we have fellowship with Him and {yet} walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;* (NAS)

James 1:22

22 *But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.* (NAS)

Ps 119:105

105 *Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.* (NAS)

There are two kinds of attitudes towards God’s Word.

1. **Those who receive it** – (Isa. 66:2; Psa. 19:10; 119:162)
2. **Those who reject it** – (Jer. 17:23; 18:12; 19:15; 36:21-23)

According to John Stott there are five facets of the lifestyle of a “doer of the Word.”

1. _____ – Worship is impossible without a knowledge of the truth. (Neh. 8:8; 1 Tim. 4:13)
2. _____ – The Word of God is like a mirror, showing us what we are like. (James 1:23-25)
3. _____ – Faith is integral, for... “without faith it is impossible to please God.” (Heb. 11:6; Psa. 9:10; Rom. 10:17)
4. _____ – This involves submission to authority. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24)
5. _____ – Truth cannot be concealed or monopolized. (1 Cor. 4:1)

So, we must apply Scripture in the light of its’ teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness. This is the key to application.

Teaching: is what the Word of God says on any particular subject. The teaching is always true and therefore, everything that God says about that subject is absolute truth.

Step One: Find out what the Word of God says on any particular subject through accurate observation and correct interpretation of the text.

Step Two: Once you understand what the Word of God teaches, you are obligated before God to accept the Truth and to live by it.

Step Three: When you have adjusted any false concepts or teaching you may have believed and have embraced the truth revealed in God's Word, then you have applied what you have learned.

Reproof: Expose areas in your thinking and behavior that do not align with God's Word. Reproof is finding out where you have thought wrongly or where you where you haven't been doing what God says is right. The application of reproof is to accept it and agree with God, acknowledging where you are wrong in thought or in behavior. This is how you are set free from unbelief and from sin.

Correction: is often the most difficult portion of the process. Many times we can see what is wrong, but we are reluctant to take the necessary steps to correct our behavior. Many times correction comes by simply confessing and forsaking what is wrong. Other times, God gives very definite steps to take. When you apply correction to your actions and attitudes, God will work in you to do His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13). Joy will follow obedience.

Training in righteousness: The Bible was also given to us as a handbook for living. As we spend time in God's Word, God equips us through: teaching, commands, promises, exhortations, warnings, the lives of Biblical Characters, and accounts of how God deals with mankind.

In applying Scripture to your life, the following questions may be helpful.

What does the passage teach? Is it general or specific? Does it apply only to specific people? To a cultural problem of the day? To a certain time in history? Has it been superseded by a broader teaching?

For Example: In the Old Testament the children of Israel were not allowed to eat certain foods. This prohibition is not applicable to Christians today because it was superseded by the teaching in Acts 10 and the account of Peter and his vision of the unclean animals.

Does this section of Scripture expose any error in your beliefs or in your behavior? Are there any commandments that you have not obeyed? Are there any wrong attitudes or motives in your life that the Scriptures bring to light?

What is God's instruction to you as His child? Are there any new truths to be believed? Are there any new commandments to be acted upon? Are there any new insights you are to pursue? Are there any promises you are to embrace?

When applying Scripture beware of the following:

1. Applying cultural standards rather than biblical standards.
2. Attempting to strengthen a legitimate truth by using a Scripture incorrectly
3. Applying Scripture out of prejudice from past training or teaching.

Summary of the Inductive Process

Step One: Overview

1. Begin and continue with an attitude of prayer.
2. Read and re-read the book to be studied
3. Identify the type of literature with which you are dealing.
4. Deal with the book objectively
5. As you continually read, be sure that you are reading with a purpose by asking the 5 W's and an H (who, what, where, when, How and Why) kinds of questions.
6. To discover the context of any book, begin by identifying the facts about any people and events mentioned.
7. Read and re-read the text until you discover those words and phrases that are repeated. Mark these key words and phrases. Then make brief lists in the margin of the text from the key words and phrases.

Step Two: Chapter Study

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Read through the Observations that you have already made about the book. Look for the things that are obvious.
3. Deal with the chapter objectively.
4. Read with a purpose by asking the 5 W's and an H (Who, What, Where, When, How and Why) kinds of questions.
5. Look for the obvious.
6. Look for and mark key words and/or key phrases.
7. Make lists from the key words.
8. God reveals truth in many ways in His Word. Read through the text again looking for each of the following: contrasts, comparisons, terms of conclusion, and expressions of time.
9. Determine the chapter theme (summary statement)
10. Determine the paragraph themes (summary statements).