


Implementation

Applying God's Word to Our Lives


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- We must apply Bible doctrine to ourselves and to those we teach.
 - We will work to implement the doctrinal truths found in the passage into the present context.
 - In Application, we bring the truths of Scripture to bear on our daily lives.

Soaking Your Mind in God's Word

How can we incorporate God's Word into our daily life?

I have heard it described as a process called **Soak, Sow, and Flow**. We soak our minds in the truths of Scripture, which allows us to sow them into our daily circumstances, and have the Holy Spirit flow through them.

The living and powerful Word of God transforms our attitudes and our thinking, if we soak our minds in it.

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- Bible doctrine is static and unchanging. Application, however, is dynamic.
 - It depends upon the context in which the doctrine is brought the bear.
 - Let's look at an example of this principle. William Carey, the famous missionary to India in the early 1800's sought to apply the truth taught in Exodus 20:13 to the people of Serampore.
 - He condemned the practice of widow burning.
 - The doctrine remains the same, but the application of the doctrine is determined by the context in which it is applied.


Making Faithful Application


- Faithful application of the biblical text is made possible by sound Investigation and Interpretation.
- When we apply God's Word we must be sure that what we teach does not conflict with other teachings found in Scripture.

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- I am the vine, you are the branches, whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5


- Continue to study humbly before the Lord. You will never outgrow your weakness and desperate need for the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

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- We must avoid unnecessary creativity by trying to force a novel application from a text if the application is already clearly stated by the author.
 - Let the Scriptures speak for themselves. Your job is simple to expose what is found there.
 - Paul urged the Philippians believers to pray instead of being anxious.
 - The command to pray is an application that is immediately relevant to us today.

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- Remember, in applying Scripture we aim to transform, not simply inform.
 - Application of a text should point our **hearts**, our **hands**, and our **feet** to the doctrines in the Bible.
 - Our application should challenge the hearer and result in changes in **belief**, **affection**, and **behavior**.
 - “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”
 - Romans 8:29

Applications

- Do your best to make applications concrete.
- Verbalize specific things to believe.
- Communicate distinct behaviors to forsake.
- Do not leave your audience foggy with vague applications.
- Shine the bright light of Scripture on the current context so that you leave your study with a crystal clear understanding of what God, through his word, is calling you and your hearers to do.
- General applications result in little fruit.

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- Applications need to be appropriate for your audience.
 - When Paul promised the peace of God would guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, it was to believers.
 - We must not misled unbelievers, these are blessings reserved for God's children.
 - Be careful not to bind consciences where Scripture does not.

Only Teach what you live

- Before applying Scripture to others, we must make application to our own life and heart.
- Be careful not to fall into a trap of the devil and become a judge of others by a standard to which we ourselves are not willing to submit.
- “First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye” Matthew 7:5
- The teacher must first surrender himself to the authority of Scripture.

Applying the Text to Believers

- Application answers the question, what should I do in response to this doctrine?
- We should apply Scripture to our heads, our hearts, and our hands.
- The doctrines found in Scripture are God's direction for us. They should touch upon our beliefs, our affections, and our actions.
- In order to make effective applications to all three of these areas, you must know well the condition of your flock. (Prov. 27:23)


How should this doctrine be applied to the head?

- I Thessalonians 5:17, says, “Pray without ceasing” we are to engage in continuous prayer throughout our days.
- Is there a belief to commend? Is there a false doctrine to confront?
- False doctrine is never new, it may be new to you but rest assured Satan has used every trick he has to keep you from daily communing with God.

Renewing Your Mind

- *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God. To present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Romans 12: 1-2

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- Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

Matthew 16: 24-26

Truly Transformed

- We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints. 2 Corinthians 8: 1-4

Doctrine Leads to Duty


- Knowing God's Word well is what equips us to serve Him. We must know the Scriptures!
- Paul exhorted Timothy to know sound doctrine.
- Paul told Titus to know the faithful word.
- In the book of Ephesians we have 3 chapters of doctrine before we learn how we are to serve God.
- In Romans we have 11 chapters of instruction about our awesome God which leads us to rejoice in becoming a living sacrifice for Him.

The Spiritual Key to Worship

- Offer yourself as a **Living Sacrifice**.
- It has been said that the key to powerful living is not getting all I can, but giving all I have!
- Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. Titus 2: 7-8

Apply Scripture to your Body

- When you apply Scriptures to your body, you seek to encourage correct behavior and rebuke sinful behavior.
- Christians who are not taking up prayer regularly throughout the day, ought to be urged to do so.
- Give them clear instructions concerning how they might walk in obedience to God's command.
- Ask the following questions: Is there a behavior to encourage? Is there a sinful behavior to rebuke?

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- All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful, all things are lawful forme, but I will not be dominated by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food – and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 1 Corinthians 6:12-13
 - Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Thessalonians 5:23

Apply Scripture to your Heart


- Now we are looking at our affections.
- Seek to cultivate appropriate affections and to condemn unbiblical affections.
- Believers should feel their neediness and dependence on God, which is the reason for continual prayer.
- Self reliance and arrogance evidenced by prayerlessness ought to be condemned.
- How should this doctrine be applied to the heart? Is there a behavior to encourage? Is there a sinful affection to condemn?


Psalm 103:1-3

- God is worthy of worship
- God is worthy of whole-hearted worship
- God has given his people abundant reasons to worship
- Thinking of applications of our passage in Psalm 103, it would be very appropriate to ask a class of believers to set aside an hour this week and write down the kindness the Lord has bestowed upon you.

Applying the Text to Unbelievers

- The Lord's Day gathering in which the preaching of the Scriptures is central was instituted by God for his own glory and the benefit of his people.
- Therefore the corporate worship service is primarily for Christians.
- However, unbelievers attend these gatherings as well as attending discipleship classes and other events where the Bible is taught.

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- As we wrap up what it means to be a living sacrifice for our Lord. Being committed to Him first and foremost. I like how John MacArthur put it.
 - “Having a renewed mind by the Word, having a submissive will that wants what He wants, and a consecrated body go along with the redeemed soul.”



But you beloved, building yourselves up in your
most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,
keep yourselves in the love of God waiting for the
mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, that leads to eternal
life. (Jude 1:20-21)