

Lesson 1: The Goal and Practice of Bible Study

As we embark on learning how to better study the Bible, we must first be reminded of the biblical goal for Bible study. The Bible itself is clear what that goal should be, life transformation.

There are two supernatural events in a person's life that are impossible to experience apart from the role of God's Word. Peter captures both of them in his first epistle.

*"...having been **born again**, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because 'All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever.' Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, **that you may grow** thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious." 1 Peter 1:23-2:3. (Emphasis, mine.)*

From this passage we learn the two major roles God's Word has in the lives of people. First, the Word is instrumental in people's new birth in Christ. Second, the Word is necessary for believers to spiritually grow. Therefore, spiritual birth and spiritual growth are due to the supernatural working of the Holy Spirit using the Word of God.

The Goal of Bible Study: Life Transformation

In class, read the following passages and discuss:

1. John 17:17

The term "sanctify" (Greek, *hagiazō*) means to "set apart, make holy".

2. Matthew 28:19-20

The term "disciple" (Greek, *mathetes*) actually means "learner, or student".

3. James 1:22

The overlooked deception:

4. Romans 8:5-6 & 12:1-2

Without the Word of God influencing and changing our thinking, we cannot cooperate with the supernatural spiritual resources God gives us to live Christlike and holy lives.

5. 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

Assignment: For the next class (Lesson 2), read the inserted chapter from the book, *Six Secrets of the Christian Life* by Zane Hodges. Chapter 2 addresses the role of the Word of God for spiritual inward change. Referencing Moses and his meeting with God in the Tent of Meeting, Paul shares with his readers how believers can be changed from “glory to glory”. Read the chapter, “*God’s Marvelous Mirror*” and discuss next week in class. (Used by permission from the Grace Evangelical Society.)

The Practice of Bible Study: The Accurate Handling of Scripture

In Paul’s final epistle in the New Testament, on the eve of his execution, the apostle gives Timothy admonitions in ministry. Every servant of God needs to read this epistle regularly. One admonition addresses the need for careful study of the Scriptures. Let’s take a closer look. Read 2 Timothy 2:15.

*“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a **worker** who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing** the word of truth.”*

1. *Worker* in 2 Timothy 2:15

Some view diligent study and utilizing resources as only academic, but not spiritually profitable. Is this correct?

2 Timothy 4:13:

John 16:13 accurately applied:

“The promise was made to the eleven disciples first and foremost; thus, Jesus said, “He (the Holy Spirit) will guide you.’ This He did. And, as a result, along with the promise in John 14:26 of His reminding them of Jesus’ teachings, we have the assurance that the New Testament writings contain God’s truth, both in the Gospels (they were reminded of what He taught them) and in the Epistles and Revelation (new truths).”

Taken from, *The Disciplemaker*, by Gary Derickson & Earl Radmacher, p. 230.

The spiritual gift of teaching:

2 Timothy 2:6

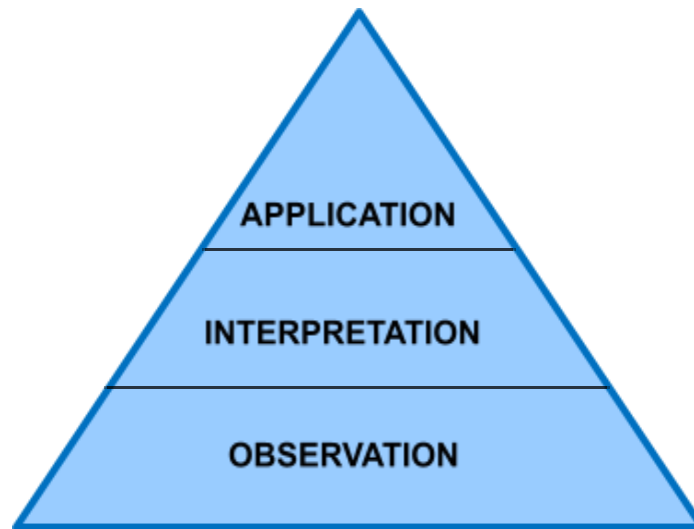
2. *Rightly Dividing or Handling Accurately* in 2 Timothy 2:15

Orthotomounta/Orthos:

Exegesis (Observation: what does the text say?)

Hermeneutics (Interpretation: what does the text mean?)

Application (Relevancy: how does the text work?)



Concluding Distinction

Bibliology is a study _____ the Bible.

Exegesis, hermeneutics, application is involved in the study _____ the Bible.

Truth Seekers: Developing Skills for Accurate Bible Study is a course pertaining to the study of the Bible.