

Lesson 12
Developing Accurate and Relevant Applications of the Biblical Text

Application is the bridge between the biblical meaning and present-day life situations.

1. Build application upon interpretation.

Unfortunately, many people go to the Bible for a "blessing" or for guidance for the day, ignoring the interpretive process altogether. In their intense desire to find something devotional or practical, Christians sometimes distort the original meaning of some passages of Scripture. To bypass the purpose and original meaning of the passage, looking for a subjective impression, can lead to a serious misuse of the Bible. Without proper interpretive controls, people can attempt to make the Bible mean almost anything they want it to mean. Z BBI

2, What did the writer expect from the original readers

Sometimes commands are given in the New Testament that are clearly indicated as for all Church-Age believers. In Ephesus the Christians to whom Paul wrote Ephesians were members of the body of Christ, just as are believers today. Therefore much of what Paul wrote in that epistle is directly applicable to present-day Christians. The commands, admonitions, and exhortations for the Ephesians are also directives for all generations of believers since then. Z BBI Deut 21:18-21

3. Base applications elements that present day believers share with the original audience, commonality.

How does it relate to present day audiences?

Does it relate in the same way that it did to the original audience?

Example; . The command in Colossians 3:2, "set your minds on things above," and the command in verse 9, "do not lie to each other," are as relevant and authoritative for Christians today as for believers in Colosse 2,000 years ago. Z BBI

4. Determine What Is Normative, applicable, instructive.... for Today

We must be careful not to generalize for today everything that happened in Bible times. This is especially true in narrative passages of the Bible, which report experiences peculiar to individuals in their isolated cases. Because God has done something in the past for an individual does not mean we can expect Him to do the same for us.

Joshua 10:12-15, Ex 7:8-12:30.

5. See the Principle Inherent in the Text

Sometimes the Scriptures give specific commands, directives specified for all believers. However,

other times such declarations are not explicit. Therefore, we look for principles inherent within the text.

These principles stem directly from the Scriptures; they are not something imposed on the biblical text.

James 1:27, Matt 5:22

Explicit:

Implicit:

Implied:

Principle:

6. Think of the Principle as an Implication (or Extrapolation) of the Text, and as a Bridge to Application.