

Principles of Effective Bible Study

Class Notes

Shepherd Leader Training

Fellowship Bible Church

Don Den Hartog

LESSON 1

- I. Introduction & Definitions
 - A. Bible Study, Bible Usage, & 2 Timothy 2:15
 1. Bible Study
 - a. What do you find to be your biggest challenges in Bible study?
 - b. What do you hope to gain from this course?
 - c. The _____ always involves the role of the Bible. (1 Peter 1:22-25)
 - d. _____ always involves the role of the Bible. (1 Peter 2:1-3)
 2. Bible Usage
 - a. The Bible is _____. (John 17:17)
 - b. The _____ of the Bible may or may not be truth.
 - c. Truth is not determined by the presence of the biblical reference(s) but by _____ usage of the biblical reference(s).

LESSON 2

3. The Teaching of 2 Timothy 2:15
 - a. The books of 1 & 2 Timothy strongly emphasize biblical teaching.
(1 Tim.4:13, 2 Tim. 1:6, 2:1-2, 3:14-4:5)
 - b. Biblical study/learning necessitates _____. (2 Timothy 2:15)

orthotomounta, ορθοτομουντα = “rightly dividing” (NKJV), “handling accurately” (NASV)

- 1.) Only usage in the New Testament
- 2.) Defined as: “cut a path in a straight direction”
- 3.) Derivative, (orthos, ορθο), means, “upright, straight, correct”
- 4.) English terms derived from term: orthodontist, orthopedic,

LESSON 3

B. Definitions of Terms

1. Exegesis: "ex" = _____, "The purpose of exegesis is to 'lead out' the meaning which has been deposited in the biblical text by the writer." (Jerry Vines & David Allen, "Hermeneutics, Exegesis, and Proclamation", Criswell Theological Review, 1987)

Exegesis is the observation process of Bible study, answering the question, "What does the text _____?"

2. Hermeneutics:
 - a. The science of _____.
 - b. The term "hermeneutics" is derived from Grecian mythology. The god *Hermes* was the interpreter of the gods, bringing understanding to humans.
 - c. In the New Testament, derivatives (both noun and verb forms) of *hermenia* (ερμηνια) are translated as "to explain" (Luke 24:27) or "to translate" (1 Cor.12:10, Heb.7:2, Matt.1:23, John 1:38, Acts 4:36).

Hermeneutics is the interpretation process of Bible study answering the question, "What does the text _____?"

3. Exposition:

"Exposition is the communication of the meaning of the text along with its relevance to present-day hearers. Exegesis is the actual interpretation of the Bible, and hermeneutics consists of the principles by which the meaning is determined." (Basic Bible Interpretation, Dr. Roy Zuck, p.19-20)

4. Homiletics/Pedagogy/Andragogy
 - a. Homiletics is the art of preaching (usually in a pulpit context.)
 - b. Pedagogy is the science of teaching children.
 - c. Andragogy is the science of teaching adults.

LESSON 4

5. Application

- a. Spiritual growth necessitates putting the truths of the Bible into action. (Hebrews 5:10-12, James 1:21-27, John 14:21)
- b. The process of determining applications of the biblical text necessitates congruency with the author's intent.

"Sometimes we apply the text in ways that might make the biblical writer say, 'Wait a minute, that's the wrong use of what I said.' This is the heresy of a good truth applied in the wrong way." (Dr. Haddon Robinson, "The Heresy of Application", Leadership Journal, Fall-1997, p.21)

Application is the ultimate goal of Bible study answering the question, "How does the text _____?"

LESSON 5

C. Bible Study & Bibliology*

1. The Harmony:

Accurate Bible study is founded upon _____ bibliology.

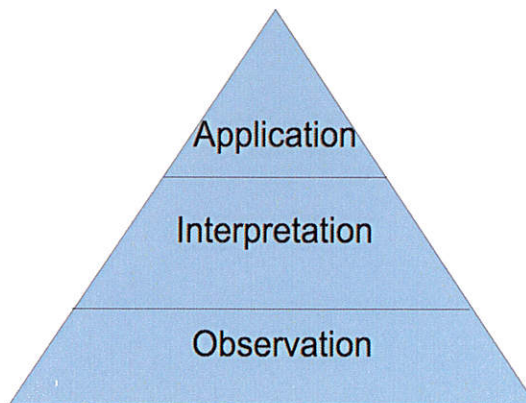
2. The Distinctions:

a. Bible study is the study _____ the Bible itself.

b. Bibliology is the study _____ the Bible itself.

**Bibliology includes subjects such as inspiration (the Bible is "God-breathed", inerrancy (the Bible is without error in the original manuscripts), canonicity (the measurements used to determine inspired Scripture from non-inspired writings), etc., etc.*

The Bible Study Pyramid



LESSON 6

II. Biblical Accuracy, Authorial Intent, & Single Interpretation

A. Authorial Intent & The Contribution of Walt Kaiser

1. Authorial intent is the absolute meaning intended by the author regardless the form or medium of communication he/she used.
2. *"To interpret we must in every case reproduce the sense the Scriptural writer intended for his own words. The first step in the interpretive process is to link only those ideas with the author's language that he connected with them. The second step is to express these ideas understandably....In human conversation, the speaker is always the author; the person spoken to is always the interpreter. Correct understanding must always begin with the meanings the speaker attaches to his own words."* (Dr. Walt Kaiser, *Legitimate Hermeneutics*, p.118,120)

B. Single Interpretation & The Contribution of E.D. Hirsch

1. Past and present philosophies adopted by societies tend to effect Christians and their approach to Bible study.
 - a. Rationalism of the 17th century
 - b. Literary Criticism of the 19th century
 - c. Cultural Relativism of the 20th-21st centuries
 - 1.) "What does this mean to you?"
 - 2.) "What it means to you does not necessitate it mean the same to me."
2. "For, once the author had been ruthlessly banished as the determiner of his text's meaning, it very gradually appeared that no adequate principle existed for judging the validity of an interpretation. By an inner necessity the study of 'what a text says' became the study of what it says to an individual critic.... Thus, when critics deliberately banished the original author, they themselves usurped his place, and this led unerringly to some of our present-day theoretical confusions. Where before there had been but one author, there now arose a multiplicity of them, each carrying as much authority as the next. To banish the original author as the determiner of meaning was to reject the only compelling normative principle that could lend validity to an interpretation." (Dr. E.D. Hirsch, *Validity In Interpretation*, p. 3 & 5)

LESSON 7

C. Accuracy in Bible Study

1. Three conditions of the student for accurate Bible study
 - a. Faith, _____
 - b. Obedience, _____
 - c. _____, 2 Timothy 2:15
 - d. Personal knowledge of _____, Matthew _____
2. Recognition of the types of biblical literature: narratives, epistolary, poetic/wisdom, apocalyptic, etc.

(SPECIAL HERMENEUTICS)

LESSON 8

III. Principles in Observation (Exegesis) & the Use of Resources

A. Seeing the Forest 1st, Trees 2nd (Observing the whole)

HISTORY OF CHAPTER/VERSE DIVISIONS

Arch Bishop Stephen Langton: 13th Century, Chapter divisions for Latin Vulgate

Robert Estienne (Former Catholic, became Evangelical): 16th Century (1551) verse divisions within chapters were added.

1. Seeing beyond chapter/verse divisions

Example: Matthew 16:28

Example: 1 Corinthians 11:17-18

2. Seeing the broad perspective through reading in one-sitting

3. Seeing from the perspectives of the original readership

Example: The Book of Samuel

Example: The Book of Mark

LESSON 9

4. Seeing narratives as theological treatise, not only as historical accounts. (**Using the "Jeopardy Principle" to determine purpose.**)

Example: The Book of Matthew

Example: Genesis 1

5. Seeing certain particulars in the whole

- a. Thematic statements

Example: John 20:30-31

Example: 1 Timothy 3:15

- b. Looking for repetition of terms/phrases

Example: The Gospel of John

Example: The Gospel of Luke

Example: The Book of Kings

Example: The Book of Titus

LESSON 10

B. Seeing the Trees with the Forest (Examining the parts)

1. Context, Context, Context

- a. Cultural context (i.e. political, geographical, agricultural, religious, etc. etc.)

- 1.) Some passages contain transferable actions & principles

- 2.) Some passages contain transferable principles only

Example: Matthew 5:39

Example: 1 Corinthians 8:4

Example: 1 Timothy 2:9-10

- b. Dispensational context

Example: Sabbath law

- c. Grammatical context

Example: 1 Timothy 5:8

- d. Historical context

Example: The Book of 1 Peter

LESSON 11

2. Figures of Speech
 - a. “Normal” interpretation vs. “literal” interpretation
 - b. Types & Examples of Figures of Speech

Read: Dr. Roy Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation, A Practical Guide to Discovering Biblical Truth*, pp. 143-168. David C. Cook Publications.

LESSON 12

3. Word Studies: Principles & Procedures

- a. Words are _____.

John had to run to the store and pick up a gallon of milk on his way home from work. While in the store, he ran into a friend and due to their conversation, he was running late in getting home. Usually, after arriving home John runs about 30 minutes on the treadmill. He usually watches the news on TV while exercising but during the election he was tired of watching all the campaign ads of those running for office. In fact, he has run out patience with politicians in general. He wrote a letter recently to his congressman to outline his frustrations and ran a copy for his own personal files.

Caution: Define words grammatically first, not

_____.

Examples:

- b. Words are defined by three determinates.

1.) _____ definitions

2.) _____

a. By _____

b. By other biblical _____

c. By extra-biblical sources of the same _____

3.) _____

a. Within the _____

b. Within the _____

c. Within the _____

d. Within the _____

Examples:

LESSON 13

Suggested Word Study Options

Option #1:

- A. Learn the Greek alphabet (24 letters)
- B. Find the Greek term of the English word you have chosen to study. *A Reader's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, by Sakae Kubo
- C. Look up the Greek term for definitions in a Greek lexicon (dictionary). *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, by Walter Bauer.
- D. Look up the Greek term for usage in a Greek concordance. *The Englishmen's Greek Concordance of the New Testament*, by George Wigram
- E. Based on definition options and usage, determine meaning.

LESSON 14

Option #2

- A. Look up the English term you have chosen to study in The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, by James Strong.
- B. On the far right column of the entries is a number associated with the term.
- C. Examine the other Bible passages that contain that same term and number. (Study of usage.)
- D. Look up the number in the back of the concordance for definitions of that term.
- E. Based on definition options and usage, determine meaning.

α

β

γ

δ

ε

ζ

η

θ

ι

κ

λ

μ

ν

ξ

ο

π

ρ

σ

τ

υ

φ

χ

ψ

ω