

How to Study the Bible (Hermeneutics)

Part 1

Theology of the Bible – SCAN

S - the Sufficiency of the Bible

- “The idea that Scripture contained all the words of God he intended his people to have at stage of redemptive history and that it now contains all the words of God we need for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly.”
- *16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

C - the Clarity of the Bible

- “The idea that the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who read it seeking God’s help and are willing to follow it.”
- *7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; - Psalm 19:7*

A - the Authority of the Bible

- “The idea that all the words in Scripture are God’s words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.”
- *2 Timothy 3:16*
- *20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. - 2 Peter 1:20-21*

N - the Necessity of the Bible

- “The idea that the Bible is necessary for knowing the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God’s will, but is not necessary for knowing that God exists or for knowing something about his character and moral laws.”
- *29 The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. - Deuteronomy 29:29*

*Quotes are taken from Wayne Grudem’s *Systematic Theology*.

Theology of Studying the Bible - Illumination

- “[T]he Bible calls for more than your natural kind of reading. Not less. But more. Natural and supernatural. If either is missing, we will misread God’s word.” - John Piper
- “Is the Bible the Word of God? Then be sure you never read it without fervent prayer for the help and teaching of the Holy Spirit.” - J. C. Ryle
- *12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. - 1 Corinthians 2:12-13*

Philosophy of Reading and Studying the Bible - Meaning and Significance

Meaning

- “Meaning is determined by the author and discovered by the reader.”
- The first goal of studying the Bible is to discover the intended meaning that was given by the author of the biblical passage.

Significance

- While a text’s meaning will not change, as time and culture changes, the meaning of a text may take on new significances.
- Once a text’s meaning is discovered, the significance for the modern reader should be determined so that the text can be applied.

Basic Steps of Reading and Studying the Bible

- **Observation/Comprehension**
- **Interpretation**
- **Application**