

# INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

*"Acts 17:11" and "2 Timothy 2:15"*

## CLASS #4 | Interpreting and Cross Referencing the Text

**The greatest tool we have to interpret the Bible is the Bible. Therefore, to fully interpret a verse or passage of Scripture, we must understand how one Biblical text correlates (or cross-references) with other Biblical texts.**

Cross Referencing, or better, the "Correlation" of Scripture is used to better interpret a passage using the "whole of Scripture" to determine its' Biblical context and precise meaning.

Remember, the number one rule of Bible interpretation: "the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible." In fact, "correlation" is the way the Holy Spirit has chosen to help interpret the New Testament. There are literally hundreds of correlating Old Testament passages written to bring greater interpretation to the New Testament. When correlation isn't a part of our Biblical interpretation, we can create doctrine that can be contradicted in other sections of Scriptures. This is where virtually every cult has gone astray.

### **I. Things to consider when correlating or cross-referencing a Biblical Text:**

#### **A. Cross-reference: the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible.**

(Num 21:8) Then the LORD said to Moses, "**Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole;** and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live."

(John 3:14) "And **as Moses lifted up the serpent** in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

#### **B. Remember, the Word of god is authoritative, inerrant, and sufficient, thus it can never contradict itself.**

(Rom 4:3-4) For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham **believed God**, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." Now **to him who works**, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

(Eph 2:8-9) For **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **not of works**, lest anyone should boast.

(Jam 2:24) You see then that **a man is justified by works**, and not by faith only.

#### **C. Do not make doctrine on obscure verses in Scripture.**

(1 Cor 15:29) Otherwise, what will they do who are **baptized for the dead**, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead?

#### **D. Jesus and the New Testament writers correlated Scriptures from the original Hebrew, as well as the Greek Septuagint (the first OT translation from the original Hebrew to Greek).**

#### **E. Realize that some OT verses that correlate with the NT can be difficult to spot, for example; In regard to selecting another apostle to take Judas' place, Acts 1:20 Peter quotes Psalms 69:25 and 109:8.**

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(Acts 1:20) "For it is written in the book of Psalms: '**Let his dwelling place be desolate**, And let no one live in it'; and, '**Let another take his office.**'"

(Psa 69:25) **Let their dwelling place be desolate**; Let no one live in their tents.

(Psa 109:8) Let his days be few, And **let another take his office.**

## F. Illustrate New Testament concepts with Old Testament teachings.

### Topic: Living by Faith

(Rom 1:17) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "**The just shall live by faith.**"

(Hab 2:4) "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But **the just shall live by his faith.**"

(Gal 3:11) But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "**the just shall live by faith.**"

(Heb 10:38) Now **the just shall live by faith**; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

(1 Sam 17:45-48) Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. **But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.** This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands." So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that **David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.**

## G. The law of "first mention" states that there is great significance in the first time a word or theology is used in the Bible, i.e. "Love"

(Gen 22:2) Then He said, "**Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love,** and go to the land of **Moriah**, and **offer him there** as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

(John 3:16) For **God so loved the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

(Rom 5:8) But **God demonstrates His own love toward us**, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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## **Cross-Referencing; Classroom Assignment: Mark 6:45-52**

- 1. Observation: Circle** all the names and pronouns for God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- 2. Observation: Box** all action words to get an idea of the action taking place
- 3. Observation:** See how many additional details you can discover by harmonizing with Matthew 14:22-33 and John 6:15-21.

### **Mark 6:45-52**

- (45) Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away.
- (46) And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray.
- (47) Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land.
- (48) Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by.
- (49) And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out;
- (50) for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."
- (51) Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled.
- (52) For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.

### **Matthew 14:22-33**

- (22) Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.
- (23) And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.
- (24) But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.
- (25) Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.
- (26) And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.
- (27) But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."
- (28) And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."
- (29) So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.
- (30) But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"
- (31) And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"
- (32) And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.
- (33) Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

### **John 6:15-21**

- (15) Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.
- (16) Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea,
- (17) got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them.
- (18) Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing.
- (19) So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid.
- (20) But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."
- (21) Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.

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## **Homework Assignment #4; Interpretation**

**1. Observe the Text.** Circle all the names and pronouns for God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Box all action words to get an idea of the action taking place.

**2. Interpret the Text.** What does it mean to be "justified"? What does "grace" mean? What does "the glory of God" mean? Make sure to include in your own words the definitions on 18 underlined words below.

**Resources: English and Greek Bible dictionaries**

Go to <https://biblehub.com/interlinear/romans/5.htm> and explore the Greek Text and click on the numbers above the words to see more in-depth definitions. For example, click on the number (1515) above the word "peace" and see the different Concordances and Lexicons for more info on that Greek word. This is just to familiarize yourself with the Greek tools.

**3. Apply the Text.** Is there anything that applies to your own life? What is your reaction to tribulations compared to what Paul says? Where is your standing with God?

### **Romans 5:1-5**

1 Therefore, having been **justified** by **faith**, we have **peace** with God **through** our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 through whom also we have **access** by faith into this **grace** in which we **stand**, and **rejoice** in hope of the **glory** of God.

3 And not only that, but we also glory in **tribulations**, knowing that tribulation **produces perseverance**;

4 and perseverance, **character**; and character, **hope**.

5 Now hope does not **disappoint**, because the love of God has been **poured** out in our **hearts** by the Holy Spirit who was **given** to us.