

BIBLIOLOGY 26 – HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE PART 3

INTRODUCTION

Colossians 3:15-16 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

The Bible is the authoritative Word of God in all aspects of our lives. The Bible is the single source for our worldview and principles of life. We believe that the original autographs are perfect in form and function. We believe that we have an accurate representation of the original autographs in the Greek and Hebrew Bibles. We understand that the translations are good and useful for study, but how do we study?

REVIEW

In the last lesson, learned the Biblically mandated method for studying the Bible. We are you use the Literal, Grammatical, Historical approach (LGH). This approach respects the text's natural reading flow, follows linguistic rules, and preserves the historical setting while being mindful of the culture. It ensures that the author's intended meaning and the audience's understanding are maintained.

Now we we need to understand how that method is employed.

LGH IN PRACTICE

Attitudes when we approach Bible study:

- Prayer – We are to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17) We should be in prayer and be in a prayerful attitude throughout the study process
- Respect – The Word of God is the Lord's message for the world and all Scripture needs to be taken seriously and as His Word (Psalm 19:7-10; 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 17:17).
- Desire to learn, not prove – in other words we learn Inductively
Deductive reasoning, or deduction, starts out with a general statement, or hypothesis, and examines the possibilities to reach a specific, logical conclusion. General => Specific
 - a. Premise
 - b. Seek Information
 - c. Conclude Whether the Premise is True or Not

Inductive reasoning makes broad generalizations from specific observations. Data is observed then conclusions are drawn from the data. Specific => General

- a. Seek Information
- b. Build toward principles or broader understanding
- c. Premise

Deductive reasoning seeks to prove a point. Inductive reasoning lets the text state the point.

- Our goal is to be able to maximize our Bible study using only a Bible and a Notebook. How far can we get using only those two tools?

We can establish the core doctrines of the Faith.

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We can understand the character, attributes, and plan of God.

We can learn and perceive the flow of history according to God's perspective.

We can become wise in this life by being reminded of the truth of God in the whole counsel of God's Word

- Understand our Limitations – Most of us will use a Bible and a notebook

Precision – Because we are relying upon a translation, we must be honest with ourselves that the particular section of Scripture may have a less-than-fully correct word or phrase.

Because of this limitation, we do not change our theological position without verification of translation, cross referencing, or checking with our teachers.

This is where we write down thoughts and questions to be addressed later with other tools and a council of teachers.

Textual observations –

We lose aspect of the verb (completed action or incomplete action; perpetual effect)

We miss poetic and pneumatic writing techniques.

Words that seem to be the same but are different. Words that do not appear to have a connection in English may have one in the original language.

- Reduction of Presupposition - The student must eliminate as many presuppositions as possible when studying Scripture. I cannot name them for you, I do not know what is in your mind. But in general, we must not conclude meaning we have to let the text dictate.

There are some presuppositions that we must not eliminate. What are some that we cannot/must not eliminate?

God exists, Belief in Jesus Christ, This letter is God inspired text, the need for natural reading of the text, this was written in Greek (the English may not be as accurate).

- Three Questions we seek to answer from every study (Not every study will answer all three questions).

What does this passage teach me about God, Jesus, and/or the Holy Spirit?

Is there a universal principle that I can understand from this passage?

Does this challenge my theology? Do I need to change my mind?

Where do we begin?

The first thing that we must do is choose where to study. The Bible has many places in the Bible that it can be difficult to study without tools or without significant context (Leviticus, Daniel, Ezekiel, Matthew, Hebrews, James, 1 John, Revelation).

Therefore, we need to be selective since we are learning to study with only the translation and a notebook. One of the favorite places to start is Genesis. Let's give some guides and rules to read the Hebrew Narrative (Genesis – Esther)

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Narrative study is not like an Epistle study but rules are similar. In keeping with the LGH the goal is to gain data and make third-person observations. The objective is not to find application but to make observations concerning the character and activity of God. We can also learn about the people in Scripture. Who they are, and we can make observations about their character, behavior, and choices.

LGH Applied

Literal – This is written as history, we take it as history. These are events that took place and the content is about the people and nations that are addressed. The statements that “preach well” are not taken as universal unless it can be demonstrated elsewhere

Genesis 15:1 – This promise is made to Abraham, we do not claim this promise.

2 Chronicles 7:13-14 – This is to Israel. This is not to the church, and it is not to America or any other nation.

Grammatical – The language used is Hebrew. It follows the same rules as all languages. Rules of consistency and understandability: Vocabulary, Syntax, Sentence Structure, Verb Tense (or Aspect), and Subject-Verb agreement.

Genesis 1:2-31 – In this text we see natural verbal progression from one day to the next (Then...Then...). God said, God created, the grammar indicates a direct involvement. Not just a cosmic force but a personal creative God who communicated and creation responded.

Exodus 3:6 – I am the God of you father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Notice the present tense use of “am.” This indicates that God exists and that Moses’ Father, and his patriarchs are not dead but alive. Jesus quotes this passage to refute the Sadducees lack of understanding of the Resurrection (Matthew 22:31-32).

Historical – The Hebrew Narrative was not written to us, but it was written for us. We can learn about God through the author and audience of these books. This section was written to Israel in various stages of her development. We are a fly on the wall of history; we are investigative reporters seeking to understand.

Read the selected section multiple times. Who, Where, When, What happened, Why did it happen, and What are the consequences? List the characters in the narrative and identify attributes. If there is dialogue, summarize the content. Do not infer consequences, condemnation, or condonement, it must be detailed in the greater context. Finally, Observe the historical arc of God’s plan.

Many times, we do not understand an action or reference due to cultural differences. We need to strive to learn and understand the culture of those we study, or realize the limitation.