

2025 Fall Bible School Class

A six-week class starting September 9th Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:00 PM (Break at 7:15)

A Look at some Difficult, Important Topics in the New Testament

- Introduction- What in the world is hermeneutics? Why should I care?
- Does God say that I must love myself to properly love others?
- What is the real intent of relational forgiveness?
- Do I need to forgive myself?
- How important is sanctification? What is my role? How does discipleship fit in?
- How do I know that I am hearing the voice of God?
- Is Jesus keeping God from killing me? Justice, grace and mercy. Or what did you learn from Revelation?
- Why is the Gospel given in so many of the Epistles to the churches?
- What is the essence of the sin nature?
- Leaders are readers..... what have you read lately (last year+-) that you have appreciated?

Class #1 Introduction

Unless noted otherwise bible text is from [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016)

- **Pace-determined by your interest.**
- **Style – Socratic, except for most of the introduction.** 😊
- **The Hierarchy of the Bible**
- **What is the purpose of this (or any) Bible class? Or how are we going to properly answer the questions in the topics above?**

The hierarchy of the Bible. Who is the most reliable?

The purposes of the Bible for believers:

Great Reveal-Bring Glory to God as we truly know Him and are transformed.

2 Cor. 3:16-18 But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (from what to what?). ¹⁸And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Great Growth-We saw in 2 Peter 3:18 as we grow, we bring glory to Him.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Hebrews 4:12. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Perfect Source of Reliable Truth.

John 17:17, Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Sanctify = _____

c.f. Romans 8:28,29 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good (whose thoughts about what is good?), for those who are called according to **his purpose**. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Rev 21:5. And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new (how new-see context)." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."¹

Ultimate Source to meet our needs.

2 Tim 3:16, 17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Cor 3:5, 6 Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Powerful Motivation to Obey.

Romans 1:15, 16 So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation (context would include salvation & sanctification) to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

What is the purpose of this (any) Bible class?

Bible Classes are Training in: Evangelism or Discipleship or Mentoring or Counseling

See Growth Activities insert in your binder

2 main categories - Evangelism or Sanctification because there are 2 categories of people in the world.

_____ & _____

Examples: If you were (are) a theology student you might take:

Apologetics (evangelism) class – Hermeneutics (interpretation) class - Homiletics (preaching) class

- As we learn to interpret scripture correctly, we learn _____ to _____ and also very importantly, _____ not to _____. (watch for this pattern in the passages to come). cf. Matthew 28:19, 20. (**Compare:** (cf.): An abbreviation for the Latin word confer, meaning "compare," it's used in academic and legal writing to direct readers to another text for comparison.)

Purpose for our class derived from Ephesians 4:11-16. Or what is the purpose of this passage? It has to do with the roles of pastor teachers and the entire body of Christ? Break out into small groups.

Group 1

v. 11. What are the shepherds (pastors) and teachers? _____ from _____.

v. 11 Who are they gifted to? _____.

v.12a What is their job? _____. Bonus-look up the word equip in an interlinear/concordance such as in the Blue Letter bible app. _____

Group 2

V. 12a. Who does the work of ministry? _____.

V. 12b. What does the word built up mean? Or what is the result of being built up. (Hint-you may have to use an interlinear/concordance such as in the Blue Letter bible app., it is also referenced in v.13b).

V. 16. Who else is involved in building up one another? _____.

Group 3

V. 13a. What is the process of being built up?

1. Attaining _____ of the faith. In this context what does unity mean? It means _____ alike or in agreement.

2. Depending on the context, faith can mean believing in the unseen promises of God and trusting God. Here the faith is referring to the _____ of the faith, as found in the _____.

3. And the most important truths are about the _____ of _____.

Group 4

V. 13b. 1st phrase. What is the goal of the process of being built up? _____

V. 13b 2nd phrase. What is the measure or standard as to whether we are reaching the goal?

_____. See also Galatians 5:22, 23.

V. 14. Maturity is contrasted with children that are easily influenced by:

every _____ of _____ which means _____

by human _____ which means _____

by craftiness in _____ which means _____

_____. See also Colossians 2:4.

Group 5

V. 15a. Where do we learn to speak the truth? See verse 11 & 12. _____

V. 15b. What does our growth look like, or better said, who? _____

V. 16a, b. Ultimately, who does the equipping? _____ and who holds us altogether?
_____.

V. 16 c, d. If each _____ or _____ is working properly what is the result?
_____.

Summation of Ephesians 4:11-16. (Why a summation? _____)

God has gifted the church with people with gifts to strengthen, instruct and mend our thinking so that we are able to do the work of ministering, meeting the needs, of one another. We need to be continually built into the likeness of Christ to be successful ministers. The process includes coming to agreement on the important truths of our faith, especially those about who Christ is and what He wants. We know we are progressing in sanctification, towards maturity, when are exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit, the attributes of Christ in increasing measure. When each one of us is obedient and using our gifts, the result is that the body, this body, will be helping each other to become more like Christ.

This brings great glory to God. Ephesians 3:20,21 & Ephesians 5:1, 2.

Wrong interpretation leads to wrong application. Proper doctrine leads to proper doxology.

Hermeneutics-the process of proper interpretation simplified

Purpose of a Passage! Words are important! Context is King!

We find the **Purpose of a Passage** when we discover what God wants us to understand in the passage.

Words are important. We are more likely to understand Gods purpose if we look at the words carefully.

Context is King - the parts of a discourse that surround a word or passage and can throw light on its meaning. Context may be the verses surrounding the passage (most frequent), the chapter in the book, the book or the bible in its entirety.

An example that illustrates this approach to interpretation and also speaks to the purpose of our class.

2 Peter 3:18, c.f. vs.16, 17.

18. *But* grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

What is God's **Purpose in this Passage**? What does He want us to learn and obey?

Problem #1 We humans are easily deceived by _____ & _____, nah....yeah. Consider that **Words are Important**.

"but" is a coordinating conjunction used to connect words, phrases, or independent clauses that have equal grammatical weight, often to introduce a contrast or contradiction. It is one of the

seven coordinating conjunctions, commonly remembered by the mnemonic FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).

17. You *therefore*, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.

"Therefore" is a conjunctive adverb, not a conjunction or a simple adverb, because it connects two independent clauses by indicating a logical relationship, but it doesn't function as a direct connector like coordinating conjunctions. It acts as an adverb in that it can modify a verb, but its primary function is to create a link between two complete sentences. When joining two independent clauses, "therefore" is typically preceded by a semicolon and followed by a comma.

16. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

Don't draw the **Purpose of the Passage** (or applications) until you understand how the **Words** are used in the **Context** of the passage.

Problem #2: If we don't allow the context to dictate the meaning, we tend to make up the meaning on our _____ based on our _____ which may not be the thinking of _____.

Isaiah 55:8-11. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth (implies accurate interpretation); it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I **purpose**, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Another example. Matthew 28:19, 20.

19. Go *therefore* and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. *And* behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

18. *And* Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Homework Assignment. Read Romans 12:1-6a and give your summation.
