



Search the Scriptures:
These Testify of Jesus Christ

CHRIST-CENTERED BIBLE INTERPRETATION

AS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE MINISTRIES



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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES: THESE TESTIFY OF JESUS CHRIST

Christ-Centered Bible Interpretation

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References

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As Of First Importance Ministries is a registered California Non-Profit organization that provides free Christ-centered Bible training to pastors and teachers in the Philippines focusing on two subjects: Christ-centered gospel and Christ-centered Bible interpretation. Its vision is to restore the honor and glory to Jesus Christ as first love of His messengers, as first place in His church, and as first importance of His gospel.

This workbook belongs to:

CONTENTS

	THE THEOLOGY	THE METHODOLOGY
vii	11	41
vii Preface	13 The Godly Meaning Why Do We Study the Bible?	43 The Godly Observation
viii Workbook Guide	19 Why Did God Give us the Bible?	49 The Godly Interpretation
	25 The Godly Means Why Does God Enable Us to Understand the Bible?	57 The Godly Application
	31 The Godly Motivation How Do We Approach the Study of the Bible?	65 The Methodology How Do We Study the Bible?
	37 The Theology Why Do We Study the Bible?	

PREFACE

Grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

In my study of God's Word, I came upon John 5:39-40, and it became the lens through which I began viewing Scripture. As the Lord Jesus Christ said, all Scripture testifies about Him. So then, the question is: **how does God want us to study the Scripture?** By the grace of God and for the glory of Jesus Christ, this workbook (formerly called *How to Study the Bible*) strives to answer this important question.

This workbook focuses on Jesus Christ as the reason, the means, and the method of studying and teaching the Scriptures. Before interpreting and applying what the Bible says, we must first understand why God gave us the Bible and how God enables us to understand His Word. My prayer is that God will use this workbook to lead you in reverently and biblically answering for yourself: how do I study the Bible according to the Scriptures?

Our ministry's vision is to restore the honor and glory to Jesus Christ as first love of His messengers, as first place in His church, and as first importance of His gospel. We will be traveling around Philippines from church to church to offer free Bible training primarily to pastors and teachers who have not been afforded formal Bible education. The training focuses on two subjects: Christ-centered gospel and Christ-centered Bible interpretation. To invite us to hold this free training at your church, or for more free resources, including the digital file of this workbook, its student version, the audio sermon series this workbook was based on, and more, visit our website at **www.aofim.org** or contact us at **info@aofim.org**.

In the simplicity and purity
of devotion to Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 11:2-4),



Pastor Narciso "Bong" Cabuhat
President of As Of First Importance Ministries



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view our website*

WORKBOOK GUIDE

Example:

1 The Godly Interpretation

Lesson 3 | Methodology: The Godly Interpretation

MAIN PASSAGE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

SUPPORTING VERSES

2

Galatians 1:6-9

“I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to **distort** the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!”

1 Timothy 6:3-5

“If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with **sound words**, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.”

KEY WORDS

3

Distort – μεταστρέφω (*metastrephō*): (vb.) To pervert or change appearance or transform/conform

Sound words – ὑγιαίνω (*hygiainō*): (vb.) Good and accurate words

PRACTICE PASSAGE

4

Luke 4:1-13

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

5

Principle of Interpretation: Exegesis not EISEGESIS.

Draw out the meaning of the Scripture. Do NOT impose meaning into Scripture.

Exegesis means to lead out of. Eisegesis means to lead into.

Principle of Interpretation: Explicit then IMPLICIT.

Draw out what is clearly stated then what is clearly implied.

WORKBOOK GUIDE (cont.)

This workbook has two sections: the theology and methodology of Bible interpretation. To download the digital version of this workbook, or for any questions, visit our website at www.aofim.org.

Features:

- 1 LESSON.** Each lesson contains one main point that's intended to be studied in one sitting, if possible.
- 2 SUPPORTING VERSES.** All the verses listed are equally important. Students are encouraged to look up all Scriptures references in their own Bibles. If a passage is written as a reference only, or has a "..." anywhere, it means that the entire passage could not fit on the page so open your Bible. If any portion of the passage is underlined, that is the truth being highlighted for that lesson.
- 3 KEY WORDS** are bolded in the Main Passage or Supporting Verses. The definitions of words are derived from the original language of the Bible and are taken from Hebrew/ Aramaic dictionaries (if Old Testament) or Greek dictionaries (if New Testament).
- 4 PRACTICE PASSAGE** is included on some pages. Application of the lesson will be applied to this passage.
- 5 MAIN POINT.** This main point is based on all the verses listed in the lesson. The underlined words are blanks in the Student Workbook.

the
THEOLOGY

the
THEOLOGY

The Godly Meaning:
WHY DO WE STUDY THE BIBLE?

Why Do We Study the Bible?

Lesson 1 | Theology: The Godly Meaning (part A)

MAIN PASSAGES

John 1:1-18

“In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.... And the **Word** became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth... For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.”

KEY WORDS

Word – λόγος (*logos*): (*noun*) Living word/embodiment

SUPPORTING VERSES

1 Timothy 6:13-16

“I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.”

Colossians 1:15

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”

Revelation 19:11-13

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.”

Romans 1:20; Deuteronomy 29:29

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly MEANING/REASON.

Before learning *how* to interpret the Bible, we must first know *why* we study the Bible.

The Bible is the Word of God, the EMBODIMENT of His being.

The Bible is God revealing His reality in a way that people can perceive.

God's revelation determines people's reception and responsibility.

Why Do We Study the Bible?

Lesson 2 | Theology: The Godly Meaning (part A)

MAIN PASSAGES

2 Timothy 3:14-17

“You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is **inspired** by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

KEY WORDS

Inspired – θεόπνευστος (*theopneustos*): (adjective) God-breathed

SUPPORTING VERSES

Psalms 19:1-2

“The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge.”

John 14:7-11

“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.” Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.”

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly meaning/reason.

Before learning *how* to interpret the Bible, we must first know *why* we study the Bible.

The Bible is the Word of God, the ESSENCE of His revealing.

God’s Word directly and intimately reveals who He is.

The Bible reveals more than His works; It reveals Himself to people.

Why Do We Study the Bible?

Lesson 3 | Theology: The Godly Meaning (part A)

MAIN PASSAGES

2 Peter 1:20-21

“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men **moved** by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

KEY WORDS

Moved – φέρομαι (*pheromai*): (verb) To be carried

SUPPORTING VERSES

Acts 3:18

“But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.”

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

1 Corinthians 12:1-6

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the mute idols, however you were led. Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.”

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly meaning/reason.

Before learning *how* to interpret the Bible, we must first know *why* we study the Bible.

The Bible is the Word of God, ENTIRELY by His doing.

God’s Word is by His sovereign will.

God’s sovereignty determines the inerrancy and infallibility of His Word.

Why Do We Study the Bible?

Lesson 4 | Theology: The Godly Meaning (part A)

MAIN PASSAGES

Romans 3:1-4

“Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God. What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it? May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written, “That You may be justified in Your words, And prevail when You are judged.””

KEY WORDS

Oracle – λόγια (*logia*): (n.) Utterance/spoken words

SUPPORTING VERSES

Hebrews 1:1-3

“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

John 17:20-21

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

John 19:30

“Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.”

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly meaning/reason.

Before learning *how* to interpret the Bible, we must first know *why* we study the Bible.

The Bible is the Word of God, EXPRESSED by Him speaking.

The Bible is God’s spoken words to and through people.

God revealed Himself through His Work, His Son, and His Word.

Why Do We Study the Bible?

Lesson 5 | Theology: The Godly Meaning (part A)

MAIN PASSAGES

John 1:1-18

“In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.... And the **Word** became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth... For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.”

KEY WORDS

Word – λόγος (*logos*): (n.) Living word/embodiment

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly MEANING/REASON.

Before learning *how* to interpret the Bible, we must first know *why* we study the Bible.

- 1 The Bible is the Word of God, the embodiment of His being.
- 2 The Bible is the Word of God, the essence of His revealing.
- 3 The Bible is the Word of God, entirely by His doing.
- 4 The Bible is the Word of God, expressed by Him speaking.

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THEOLOGY

The Godly Meaning:

WHY DID GOD
GIVE US THE BIBLE?

Why Did God Give Us the Bible?

Lesson 1 | Theology: The Godly Meaning (part B)

MAIN PASSAGES

John 5:39-40

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that **testify** about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

KEY WORDS

Testify – μαρτυρέω (*martyreō*): (vb.) To bear or give witness

SUPPORTING VERSES

John 15:26-27

“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.”

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly MEANING/REASON.

Before learning *how* to interpret the Bible, we must first know *why* God gave us the Bible.

The Bible was written to TESTIFY of Jesus Christ.

Our study of God’s Word must be according to God’s will.

Why Did God Give Us the Bible?

Lesson 2 | Theology: The Godly Meaning (part B)

MAIN PASSAGES

John 5:39-40

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that **testify** about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

Luke 24:44-49

“Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then He opened their minds to **understand** the Scriptures, and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

KEY WORDS

Testify – μαρτυρέω (*martyreō*): (vb.) To bear or give witness

Understand – συνίημι (*syniēmi*): (vb.) To bring together or to perceive

SUPPORTING VERSES

Acts 1:4-8

“Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

The Bible was written so that we may KNOW/UNDERSTAND Jesus Christ.

Our understanding of God’s Word must be according to God’s Will.

Why Did God Give Us the Bible?

Lesson 3 | Theology: The Godly Meaning (part B)

MAIN PASSAGES

John 5:39-40

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that **testify** about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

John 17:20-21

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who **believe** in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

KEY WORDS

Testify – μαρτυρέω (*martyreō*): (vb.) To bear or give witness

Believe – πιστεύω (*pisteuō*): (vb.) Convinced, and confident, and entrust

SUPPORTING VERSES

John 20:30-31

“Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

The Bible was written so that we may **BELIEVE in Jesus Christ.**

Our faith in God’s Word must be according to God’s Will.

Why Did God Give Us the Bible?

Summary | Theology: The Godly Meaning (part B)

MAIN PASSAGES

John 5:39-40

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that **testify** about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

KEY WORDS

Testify – μαρτυρέω (*martyreō*): (*vb.*) To bear or give witness

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly meaning/reason.

Before learning *how* to interpret the Bible, we must first know *why* God gave us the Bible.

- 1 The Bible was written to testify of Jesus Christ.
- 2 The Bible was written so that we may know/understand Jesus Christ.
- 3 The Bible was written so that we may believe in Jesus Christ.

the
THEOLOGY

The Godly Means:

WHY DOES GOD ENABLE US
TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE?

Why Does God Enable Us to Understand the Bible?

Lesson 1 | Theology: The Godly Means

MAIN PASSAGE

John 5:39-40

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

SUPPORTING VERSES

John 5:22-23

“For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, so that all will **honor** the Son even as they **honor** the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”

John 16:5-15

“But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will **glorify** Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.”

KEY WORDS

Honor – τιμάω (*timaō*): (vb.) To estimate & to value

Glorify – δοξάζω (*doxazō*): (vb.) To estimate & to praise

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly MEANS/ENABLING.

Before learning *how* to interpret the Bible, we must first know *why* God enables us to understand the Bible.

The Holy Spirit enables us to understand the Bible in order for us to HONOR & GLORIFY Jesus Christ.

God’s Word reveals the glory and honor of Jesus Christ.

Why Does God Enable Us to Understand the Bible?

Lesson 2 | Theology: The Godly Means

MAIN PASSAGE

John 5:39-40

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

SUPPORTING VERSES

Ephesians 6:18-20

“With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with **boldness** the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Colossians 4:2-4

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I **ought** to speak.”

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

KEY WORDS

Boldness – *παρρησία (parrēsia): (n.)* Free & fearless

Ought – *δεῖ (dei): (vb.)* Necessity & correctly

Glory – *δόξα (doxa): (n.)* Estimation of excellence & honor

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly means/enabling.

Before learning *how* to interpret the Bible, we must first know *why* God enables us to understand the Bible.

The Holy Spirit enables us to understand the Bible in order for us to PROCLAIM the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The gospel of Jesus Christ reveals His glory and honor.

Why Does God Enable Us to Understand the Bible?

Lesson 3 | Theology: The Godly Means

MAIN PASSAGE

John 5:39-40

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

SUPPORTING VERSES

1 Corinthians 1:21-24

“For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the **power** of God and the **wisdom** of God.”

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

“And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of **wisdom**, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of **power**, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.”

Romans 10:14-17

“How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!” However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”

KEY WORDS

Wisdom – σοφία (*sophia*): (n.) Intelligence & prudence

Power – δύναμις (*dynamis*): (n.) Inherent power & dynamic power

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly means/enabling.

Before learning *how* to interpret the Bible, we must first know *why* God enables us to understand the Bible.

The Holy Spirit enables us to understand the Bible in order for people to BELIEVE in Jesus Christ.

Believing in the glory and honor of Jesus Christ is the gospel.

Why Does God Enable Us to Understand the Bible?

Summary | Theology: The Godly Means

MAIN PASSAGE

John 5:39-40

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly means/enabling.

Before learning *how* to interpret the Bible, we must first know *why* God enables us to understand the Bible.

- 1 The Holy Spirit enables us to understand the Bible in order for us to honor and glorify Jesus Christ.
- 2 The Holy Spirit enables us to understand the Bible in order for us to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- 3 The Holy Spirit enables us to understand the Bible in order for people to believe in Jesus Christ.

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THEOLOGY

The Godly Motivation:

HOW DO WE APPROACH
THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE?

How Do We Approach the Study of the Bible?

Lesson 1 | Theology: The Godly Motivation

MAIN PASSAGE

John 5:39-40

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

SUPPORTING VERSES

2 Peter 1:1-3

“Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.”

2 Peter 3:17-18

“You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, 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.”

KEY WORDS

Grow – *αὐξάνομαι (auxanomai)*: (vb.) To give increase or to cause to grow

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly MOTIVATION/PASSION.

After knowing the *why*, we know *how* to approach the study of the Bible.

God causes us to grow in the knowledge of His Word when our motivation is to GLORY in Jesus Christ.

We must first glory in Jesus Christ before we glorify Him.

How Do We Approach the Study of the Bible?

Lesson 2 | Theology: The Godly Motivation

MAIN PASSAGE

John 5:39-40

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

SUPPORTING VERSES

2 Corinthians 11:2-4

“For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be **led astray** from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.”

2 Timothy 2:15-19

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some. Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.”

KEY WORDS

Led astray – *φθειρω (phtheirō)*: (vb.) To corrupt in the slightest degree

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly motivation/passion.

After knowing the *why*, we know *how* to approach the study of the Bible.

God keeps us from being led astray in our study of His Word when our motivation is to grow in DEVOTION to Jesus Christ.

Glorifying Jesus Christ must be rooted in our devotion to Him.

How Do We Approach the Study of the Bible?

Lesson 3 | Theology: The Godly Motivation

MAIN PASSAGE

John 5:39-40

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

SUPPORTING VERSES

Revelation 2:1-7

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: ‘I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your **first** love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent. Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.’”

Colossians 1:13-18

“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have **first** place in everything.”

2 Timothy 2:19-21

KEY WORDS

First – *πρῶτος* (*prōtos*): (*adj.*) First in time, place, honor, authority, and importance

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly motivation/passion.

After knowing the *why*, we know *how* to approach the study of the Bible.

God grants us the honor of being preachers/teachers of His Word when our motivation is our FIRST LOVE, Jesus Christ.

Our devotion to Jesus Christ will result in Him being first in everything every time.

How Do We Approach the Study of the Bible?

Summary | Theology: The Godly Motivation

MAIN PASSAGE

John 5:39-40

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly motivation/passion.

After knowing the *why*, we know *how* to approach the study of the Bible.

- 1 God causes us to grow in the knowledge of His Word when our motivation is to glory in Jesus Christ.
- 2 God keeps us from being led astray in our study of His Word when our motivation is to grow in devotion to Jesus Christ.
- 3 God grants us the honor of being preachers/teachers of His Word when our motivation is our first love, Jesus Christ.

the
THEOLOGY
overview

The Theology of Bible Interpretation

The Godly Meaning, the Godly Means, and the Godly Motivation of Studying the Bible

MAIN PASSAGE

John 5:39-40

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that **testify** about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

KEY WORDS

Testify – μαρτυρέω (*martyreō*): (vb.) To bear or give witness

SUPPORTING VERSES

1 John 5:13-15

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.”

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly meaning/reason: The Bible is the Word of God, the embodiment of His being.

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly meaning/reason: the Bible was written to testify of Jesus Christ.

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly means/enabling: the Holy Spirit enables us to understand the Bible in order for us to honor and glorify Jesus Christ.

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly motivation/passion: God causes us to grow in the knowledge of His Word when our motivation is to glory in Jesus Christ.

The study of God's Word can only be accomplished through God's POWER by praying according to God's WILL.

the
METHODOLOGY

the
METHODOLOGY

The Godly Observation:

HOW DO WE STUDY
THE BIBLE?

The Godly Observation

Lesson 1 | Methodology: The Godly Observation

MAIN PASSAGE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling** the word of truth.”

KEY WORDS

Accurately handling – ὀρθοτομέω (*orthotomeō*): (vb.) To cut straight or rightly divide

SUPPORTING VERSES

Luke 4:1-13

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry. And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’” And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, “I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’” And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; for it is written, ‘He will command His angels concerning You to guard You,’ and, ‘On their hands they will bear You up, So that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’” And Jesus answered and said to him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.”

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly observation. There is only one correct observation: God’s REVELATION.

Principle of Observation: Observe what is ACTUALLY written.

Answer the questions of who, what, where, and when.

The Godly Observation

Lesson 2 | Methodology: The Godly Observation

MAIN PASSAGE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling** the word of truth.”

KEY WORDS

Accurately handling – ὀρθοτομέω (*orthotomeō*): (vb.) To cut straight or rightly divide

PRACTICE PASSAGE

Luke 4:1-13

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry. And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’” And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, “I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’” And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; for it is written, ‘He will command His angels concerning You to guard You,’ and, ‘On their hands they will bear You up, So that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’” And Jesus answered and said to him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.”

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly observation. There is only one correct observation: God’s revelation.

Principle of Observation: Start with GENERAL then specific.

Always see things as part of the whole.

Principle of Observation: Study the Scriptural CONTEXT.

Identify the parameters of the passage (people, time, place, circumstances, topic, etc.)

The Godly Observation

Lesson 3 | Methodology: The Godly Observation

MAIN PASSAGE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling** the word of truth.”

KEY WORDS

Accurately handling – ὀρθοτομέω (*orthotomeō*): (vb.) To cut straight or rightly divide

PRACTICE PASSAGE

Luke 4:1-13

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry. And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’” And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, “I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’” And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; for it is written, ‘He will command His angels concerning You to guard You,’ and, ‘On their hands they will bear You up, So that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’” And Jesus answered and said to him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.”

Matthew 4:1-11

Mark 1:12-13

Deuteronomy 6:13-16

Deuteronomy 8:1-3

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly observation. There is only one correct observation: God’s revelation.

Principle of Observation: Apply BIBLICAL cross-referencing.

Search for other verses relating to the passage.

Reference books may be helpful (commentaries, concordance, atlas, Bible dictionary, etc.).

The Godly Observation

Summary | Methodology: The Godly Observation

MAIN PASSAGES

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling** the word of truth.”

KEY WORDS

Accurately handling – ὀρθοτομέω (*orthotomeō*): (vb.) To cut straight or rightly divide

PRACTICE PASSAGE

Luke 4:1-13

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry. And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’” And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, “I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’” And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; for it is written, ‘He will command His angels concerning You to guard You,’ and, ‘On their hands they will bear You up, So that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’” And Jesus answered and said to him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.”

Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Deuteronomy 6:13-16, Deuteronomy 8:1-3

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly observation. There is only one correct observation: God’s revelation.

Principle of Observation:

- ☐ Observe what is actually written.
- ☐ Start with general then specific.
- ☐ Study the Scriptural context.
- ☐ Apply biblical cross-referencing.

Correct observation is important to proper INTERPRETATION.

the
METHODOLOGY

The Godly Interpretation:

HOW DO WE STUDY
THE BIBLE?

The Godly Interpretation

Lesson 1 | Methodology: The Godly Interpretation

MAIN PASSAGE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

SUPPORTING VERSES

1 Timothy 1:1-7

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope, to Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere **speculation** rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.”

Deuteronomy 29:29

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.”

KEY WORDS

Accurately handling – ὀρθοτομέω (*orthotomeō*): (vb.) To cut straight or rightly divide

Speculation – ἐκζήτησις (*ekzētēsis*): (n.) Subjective, controversial, debatable

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly interpretation. There is only one correct interpretation: God's TRUTH.

Principle of Interpretation: Two Methods of Interpretation

1. **FIGURATIVE:** Allegorical, moral, mystical

The Figurative Method interprets Bible passages as having underlying meanings other than what is clearly stated or plainly observed in Scripture. This method of Bible interpretation is NOT recommended.

The Godly Interpretation

Lesson 2 | Methodology: The Godly Interpretation

MAIN PASSAGE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

SUPPORTING VERSES

1 Corinthians 4:6

“Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to **exceed** what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.”

John 10:6

“This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.”

Galatians 4:24

“This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants: one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar.”

KEY WORDS

Exceed – *ὑπέρ* (*hyper*): (*preposition*) To go beyond or over

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly interpretation. There is only one correct interpretation: God's truth.

Principle of Interpretation: Two Methods of Interpretation

2. LITERAL: Historical-Grammatical

The Literal Method adheres to the standard rule of literature interpretation. It recognizes all types of literature such as narrative, figurative, allegorical, prophetic, parable, proverbs, psalms, poetry, didactic, etc.

The Godly Interpretation

Lesson 3 | Methodology: The Godly Interpretation

MAIN PASSAGE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

SUPPORTING VERSES

Galatians 1:6-9

“I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to **distort** the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!”

1 Timothy 6:3-5

“If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with **sound words**, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.”

KEY WORDS

Distort – μεταστρέφω (*metastrephō*): (vb.) To pervert or change appearance or transform/conform

Sound words – ὑγιαίνω (*hygiainō*): (vb.) Good and accurate words

PRACTICE PASSAGE

Luke 4:1-13

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Principle of Interpretation: Exegesis not EISEGESIS.

Draw out the meaning of the Scripture. Do NOT impose meaning into Scripture.

Exegesis means to lead out of. Eisegesis means to lead into.

Principle of Interpretation: Explicit then IMPLICIT.

Draw out what is clearly stated then what is clearly implied.

The Godly Interpretation

Lesson 4 | Methodology: The Godly Interpretation

MAIN PASSAGE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

SUPPORTING VERSES

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

“But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be **led astray** from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.”

1 Timothy 4:15-16

“Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. **Pay close attention** to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.”

KEY WORDS

Led astray – φθείρω (*phtheirō*): (vb.) To corrupt in the slightest degree

Pay close attention to – ἐπέχω (*epechō*): (vb.) Be alert, hold firmly, apply, present, offer

PRACTICE PASSAGE

Luke 4:1-13

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Principle of Interpretation: Inductive before DEDUCTIVE.

Draw out the specific evidence before making a general conclusion.

Principle of Interpretation: Descriptive and PRESCRIPTIVE.

Draw out what is and what should be.

Principle of Interpretation: Seeks Scriptural CONFIRMATION.

Draw out from other passages in Scripture to verify.

The Godly Interpretation

Summary | Methodology: The Godly Interpretation

MAIN PASSAGE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

KEY WORDS

Accurately handling – ὀρθοτομέω (*orthotomeō*): (vb.) To cut straight or rightly divide

PRACTICE PASSAGE

Luke 4:1-13

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry. And the devil said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’” And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, ‘I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.’” Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’” And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; for it is written, ‘He will command His angels concerning You to guard You,’ and, ‘On their hands they will bear You up, So that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’” And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.”

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly interpretation. There is only one correct interpretation: God’s truth.

The Literal Method’s Principles of Interpretation:

- ☐ Exegesis not eisegesis.
- ☐ Explicit then implicit.
- ☐ Inductive before deductive.
- ☐ Descriptive and prescriptive.
- ☐ Scriptural confirmation.

Correct interpretation is important to proper APPLICATION.

the
METHODOLOGY

The Godly Application:

HOW DO WE STUDY
THE BIBLE?

The Godly Application

Lesson 1 | Methodology: The Godly Application

MAIN PASSAGE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself **approved to God** as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling** the word of truth.”

SUPPORTING VERSES

Luke 10:38-42

“Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord’s feet, listening to His word. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.” But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

Revelation 19:11-13

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.”

KEY WORDS

Accurately handling – ὀρθοτομέω (*orthotomeō*): (vb.) To cut straight or rightly divide

Approved to God – δόκιμος (*dokimos*): (adj.) Acceptable & pleasing

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly application. There can be several proper applications: God’s WILL.

Principle of Application: Respond to God’s Word by REVERING His Word.

Devote daily time with Jesus Christ through prayer and His Word.

The Godly Application

Lesson 2 | Methodology: The Godly Application

MAIN PASSAGE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

SUPPORTING VERSES

1 Timothy 4:6-16

“In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers. Prescribe and teach these things. Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. **Pay close attention to** yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.”

Matthew 7:24-27; Hebrews 1:1-2; James 1:22

KEY WORDS

Pay close attention to – ἐπέχω (*epechō*): (*vb.*) Be alert, hold firmly, apply, present, offer

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly application. There can be several proper applications: God's will.

Principle of Application: Respond to God's Word by ADHERING to His Word.

Do earnestly the examples and teachings of Jesus Christ.

The Godly Application

Lesson 3 | Methodology: The Godly Application

MAIN PASSAGE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

SUPPORTING VERSES

Ephesians 2:8-10

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

Ephesians 5:5-10

Romans 12:1-5

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and **perfect**. For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

Hebrews 5:11-14

KEY WORDS

Perfect – τέλειος (*teleios*): (*adj.*) Complete and flawless

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly application. There can be several proper applications: God’s will.

Principle of Application: Respond to God’s Word by DISCERNING His will.
Desire foremost God’s will in Christ Jesus.

The Godly Application

Lesson 4 | Methodology: The Godly Application

MAIN PASSAGE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

SUPPORTING VERSES

1 Peter 3:14-16

“But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a **defense** to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.”

2 Timothy 4:1-4

“I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.”

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.”

KEY WORDS

Defense – ἀπολογία (*apologia*): (n.) Reasoned response

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly application. There can be several proper applications: God’s will.

Principle of Application: Respond to God’s Word by UPHOLDING His truth.

Defend faithfully the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Godly Application

Lesson 5 | Methodology: The Godly Application

MAIN PASSAGE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

SUPPORTING VERSES

Colossians 1:13-28

“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister. Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions. Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him, **admonishing** every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

Ephesians 4:1-16; 2 Corinthians 11:3-4

KEY WORDS

Admonish – *νουθετέω (noutheteō)*: (vb.) To warn, exhort, instruct, advise, rebuke

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly application. There can be several proper applications: God’s will.

Principle of Application: Respond to God’s Word by ADMONISHING according to His glory.
Do everything out of devotion to Jesus Christ.

The Godly Application

Lesson 6 | Methodology: The Godly Application

MAIN PASSAGE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

SUPPORTING VERSES

Matthew 16:13-18, 24

“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” He *said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My **church**; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it... Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.”

Matthew 28:18-20

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make **disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Philippians 1:27-30; Galatians 2:20; Revelation 2:1-7

KEY WORDS

Church – ἐκκλησία (*ekklēsia*): (n.) Assembly of the called out

Disciples – μαθητεύω (*mathēteuō*): (vb.) Committed followers

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly application. There can be several proper applications: God’s will.

Principle of Application: Respond to God’s Word by LIVING a God-honoring life.

Deny yourself and live for Jesus.

The Godly Application

Summary | Methodology: The Godly Application

MAIN PASSAGE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling** the word of truth.”

KEY WORDS

Accurately handling – ὀρθοτομέω (*orthotomeō*): (vb.) To cut straight or rightly divide

PRACTICE PASSAGE

Luke 4:1-13

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry. And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’” And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, “I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’” And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; for it is written, ‘He will command His angels concerning You to guard You,’ and, ‘On their hands they will bear You up, So that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’” And Jesus answered and said to him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.”

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Interpreting the Scriptures requires a godly application. There can be several proper applications: God’s will.

Principles of Application:

- ☐ Respond to God’s Word by revering His Word.
- ☐ Respond to God’s Word by adhering to His Word.
- ☐ Respond to God’s Word by discerning His Will.
- ☐ Respond to God’s Word by upholding His truth.
- ☐ Respond to God’s Word by living a God-honoring life.

Jesus Christ is the **WORD** of God.

Our devotion to Christ determines our preaching of His Word.

John 1:14 & Revelation 19:13

the
METHODOLOGY
overview

The Methodology of Bible Interpretation

The Godly Observation, the Godly Interpretation, and the Godly Application

MAIN PASSAGE

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling** the word of truth.”

KEY WORDS

Accurately handling – ὀρθοτομέω (*orthotomeō*): (vb.) To cut straight or rightly divide

SCRIPTURE TRUTH

Principle of Observation: There is only one correct observation: God’s revelation.

- ☐ Observe what is actually written.
- ☐ Apply biblical cross-referencing.
- ☐ Start with general then specific.
- ☐ Study the Scriptural context.

Correct observation is important to proper interpretation.

The Literal Method’s Principles of Interpretation: There is only one correct interpretation: God’s truth.

- ☐ Exegesis not eisegesis.
- ☐ Explicit then implicit.
- ☐ Inductive before deductive.
- ☐ Descriptive and prescriptive.
- ☐ Scriptural confirmation.

Correct interpretation is important to proper application.

Principles of Application: There can be several proper applications: God’s will.

- ☐ Respond to God’s Word by revering His Word.
- ☐ Respond to God’s Word by adhering to His Word.
- ☐ Respond to God’s Word by discerning His Will.
- ☐ Respond to God’s Word by upholding His truth.
- ☐ Respond to God’s Word by living a God-honoring life.

Correct THEOLOGY is necessary to proper methodology.

Our view of God determines our handling of His Word.

As Of **First**
Importance
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