

How to Study the Bible Pt.1

June 22, 2014

Psalm 19:7–11

7 *The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;*
8 *the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;*

9 *the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.*

10 *More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.*

11 *Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.*

2 Timothy 2:15

*“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling** (to cut straight) **the word of truth.**”*

7 PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY

1. Illumination
2. Context
3. Comparison
4. History
5. Language
6. Meditation
7. Application

ILLUMINATION - *insight and understanding into Scripture is supernatural, imparted by the Holy Spirit*

1 Corinthians 2:9–16

9 But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

10 **these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.**

11 **For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.**

12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, **but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.**

13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

14 **The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.**

15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.

16 **“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.**

Hebrews 8:10–12

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

11 **And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.**

12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”

John 16:13–15

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, **he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.**

14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that **he will take what is mine and declare it to you.**

John 6:44–45

44 **No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.** And I will raise him up on the last day.

45 **It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—**

CONTEXT - *a statement taken out of context can become very distorted, deceptive and dangerous*

Example:

1 Corinthians 5:4-5

4 When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus,

5 you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh.

Context:

1 Corinthians 5:1–13

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father’s wife.

2 And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.

3 For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing.

- 4 When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus,
- 5 you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.
- 6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?
- 7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.
- 8 Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
- 9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—
- 10 not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.
- 11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.
- 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?
- 13 God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

The Clarity Context Brings:

1. *The directive to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh was in response to habitual sin (sexual immorality) and the effects being brought into the church community. It was not because of a personal disagreement, grievance or offense.*
2. *Exercising church discipline is a function of the spiritual leadership overseeing that congregation. Congregants cannot discipline or excommunicate members independently of the church leadership.*
3. *The motive of Church discipline, including excommunication, is repentance and salvation, never damnation.*
4. *The motive of Church discipline, including excommunication, is the purity and preservation of the church community. Sin, if tolerated, will always spread and destroy.*

COMPARISON - *when a Biblical passage or principle is emphasized to the diminishment or exclusion of other related Scriptures, the result is the exaggeration and/or distortion of the principle*

1 Corinthians 2:12–13

12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

13 **And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting (to compare & combine) spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.**

Example #1

1 John 2:26–27

26 I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.

27 But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and **you have no need that anyone should teach you**. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

2 Timothy 4:1–4

1 I 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:

2 **preach the word**; be ready in season and out of season; **reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.**

3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,

4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

Example #2

Hebrews 3:12–14

12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

13 **But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.**

14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

James 5:16

"Therefore, **confess your sins to one another** and **pray for one another**, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

2 Thessalonians 3:11–12

11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but **busybodies**.

12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to **do their work quietly** and to **earn their own living**.

Romans 14:1–4

1 As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but **not to quarrel over opinions**.

2 One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables.

3 **Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.**

4 **Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another?** It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.