

How to Study the Bible Pt.2

June 29, 2014

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

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.**

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.**

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

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, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

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 2:13

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.**

HISTORY - *Biblical content can be misunderstood and misinterpreted if the historical context is not properly understood*

Commentaries which help with historical context:

- Barne's Notes
- Clarke's Commentaries
- Jamieson-Fausset-Brown
- Keil and Delitzsch
- Matthew Henry
- Pulpit Commentary
- Bible Dictionaries

Ruth 3:1–14

1 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you?"

2 Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

3 Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

4 But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do."

5 And she replied, "All that you say I will do."

6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her.

7 And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down.

8 At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet!

9 He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer."

10 And he said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich.

11 And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman.

12 And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I.

13 Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the LORD lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning."

14 So she lay at his feet until the morning, but arose before one could recognize another. And he said, "Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor."

From the Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible - Jamieson, Fausset & Brown

4. go in, and uncover his feet and lay thee down—Singular as these directions may appear to us, there was no impropriety in them, according to the simplicity of rural manners in Beth-lehem. In ordinary circumstances these would have seemed indecorous to the world; but in the case of Ruth, it was a method, doubtless conformable to prevailing usage, of reminding Boaz of the duty which devolved on him as the kinsman of her deceased husband. Boaz probably slept upon a mat or skin; Ruth lay crosswise at his feet—a position in which Eastern servants frequently sleep in the same chamber or tent with their master; and if they want a covering, custom allows them that benefit from part of the covering on their master's bed. Resting, as the Orientals do at night, in the same clothes they wear during the day, there was no indelicacy in a stranger, or even a woman, putting the extremity of this cover over her.

9. *I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman—She had already drawn part of the mantle over her; and she asked him now to do it, that the act might become his own. To spread a skirt over one is, in the East, a symbolical action denoting protection. To this day in many parts of the East, to say of anyone that he put his skirt over a woman, is synonymous with saying that he married her; and at all the marriages of the modern Jews and Hindus, one part of the ceremony is for the bridegroom to put a silken or cotton cloak around his bride.*

LANGUAGE - *the translation of the Bible from the original Hebrew and Greek can be difficult adding obscurity to our understanding - a better understanding of the original languages can bring both correction and greater insight to our interpretation*

Concordances & Lexicons

- Strong's Exhaustive Concordance
- Englishman's Greek & Hebrew Concordance
- NAS Exhaustive Concordance
- Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew & English Lexicon
- Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words
- Different Translations - *English Standard Version (ESV), Revised Standard Version (RSV), New American Standard (NAS)*

Philippians 2:5–7 KING JAMES VERSION

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, **thought it not robbery** (*Gk. harpagmos - the act of seizing*) **to be equal with God:**

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Philippians 2:5–7 ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God, **did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,**

7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

MEDITATION - *fixing our full focus on the words and meaning of the Scriptures while drawing on illumination from the Holy Spirit, for the retraining and transformation of our heart and mind*

Romans 12:2

2 **Do not be conformed to this world, but BE TRANSFORMED** (*metamorphoo - metamorphosis, transfiguration, transformation*) **BY THE RENEWAL** (*to make new again*) **OF YOUR MIND, that BY TESTING you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

Psalm 119:130

"The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple."

Psalm 119:97–99

97 Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

98 **Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.**

99 I have **more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.**

Deuteronomy 4:5–8

5 See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

6 **Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding** in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘**Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.**’

7 **For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?**

8 **And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?**

APPLICATION - *meditation is knowing God’s heart, application is knowing your own heart, where and how I need to change to conform to God’s Word*

Matthew 16:13–18

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

16 Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

17 And Jesus answered him, “**Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.**

18 **And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

Matthew 26:33–35

33 Peter answered him, “**Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.**”

34 Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, **you will deny me three times.**”

35 Peter said to him, “**Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!**” And all the disciples said the same.

James 1:22–25

22 But be doers of the word, and **not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.**

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.

24 For **he looks at himself** and goes away and **at once forgets what he was like.**

25 But the one **who looks into the perfect law**, the law of liberty, and **perseveres**, being no hearer who forgets **but a doer who acts**, he will be blessed in his doing.

Romans 12:2

2 **Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that BY TESTING YOU MAY DISCERN what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

Romans 2:13

“**For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.**”