

How To Study The Passage (Part 2)

How To Prepare And Teach A Bible Study Session 2

10 Steps To Study A Passage

1. Scan The Text
2. Sort The Content
3. Survey The Context
4. **Scrutinize The Communication**
5. **Spot The Colloquialisms (Figures of speech, parables)**
6. **Scope What's Coming (Prophecy)**
7. **Solve The Conflicts (Resolving conflicts with other passages, history, science)**
8. **Specify With Certainty (Theological analysis)**
9. **Supplement Through Cross-Referencing**
10. **Submit To The Commands**

IV. Scrutinize The Communication

- **The Post-Modern mindset no longer sees the precise definition of words as important**
 - Words are defined by what it means to the individual, not what it means in the dictionary
 - Example: President Clinton, Lewinsky scandal, redefined what "sex" is and what "is" is ("It all depends on what your definition of *is* is")
 - Words are used by the way community uses it, communities change, words change
 - Implication: If words don't matter, then the Word doesn't matter.
 - The Word of God is just significant to the community in that time
 - There is no objective truth; truth is culturally adaptable
 - "John Stott: "We should not share in the modern disenchantment with words. Words matter....If God were to remain silent, we would never know (and could never even guess) what He is thinking."
 - Scrutinizing words and embracing definitions should be an important goal for an interpreter.
- **It's Greek To Me!**
 - The Bible was written originally in Hebrew, Aramaic and Koine Greek.
 - Even modern Greek does not always convey the same meaning of the same word in the common (*koiné*) Greek in Jesus' day.
 - To gain the clearest picture possible of what the meaning of a text is, we must not only comprehend the cultural and historical situation the author is in, but we must comprehend the author's language.
- **Multiple Methods Of Word Studies**
 - Morphology – the structure of language
 - Lexicography – the meaning of words
 - Etymology – the origin of words
 - Syntax – the function of speech

- “In his sparing use of technical terminology that may be unintelligible to his audience, the expositor should not shy away from referring occasionally to Greek words that lie behind the English translation. When doing so, he can help his cause by comparing the Greek term to an English word derived from it. For example, δύναιμις (*dunamis*), the Greek word for ‘power,’ could be compared to the English word ‘dynamic.’ This gives the listeners a point of reference to facilitate recollection of what the Greek term is.”

A. Look For Significant Words In The Passage

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

καὶ ἡ εἰρήνη τοῦ θεοῦ ἡ ὑπερέχουσα πάντα νοῦν φρουρήσει τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν καὶ τὰ νοήματα ὑμῶν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. (NA27/UBS4)

B. Identify Repeated Words

- Circle the repeated words in the passage

Ephesians 2:14-16 ¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

C. Identify Figures Of Speech

- Seven “I Am’s” of Christ in John:
 - Bread Of Life
 - Light Of The World
 - Door
 - Good Shepherd
 - Resurrection & Life
 - Way, Truth & Life
 - True Vine

D. Note Words That Are Unclear, Confusing Or Hard To Understand

- “A good rule of thumb here is that ‘the most important words are those that give you trouble,’ and if a word gives you trouble, study it some more.” (Duvall & Hayes, p. 132)

E. Determine How Is The Word Used

- Determine what the word means to the author
- *Usus loquendi* = the use by the one speaking at that time

F. Explore The Possible Meanings Of The Word?

1. List Possible Meanings Of The Word

- "Guard" in Phil 4:7 could mean different things. List possible meanings:

2. Look At Other Bible Translations To See How Others Defined The Word

Philippians 4:7

NIV: And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

NASB: And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Today's English Version: And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.

New Living Translation: If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus

The Message: Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.

G. Study The Origin Of The Word (Etymology)?

- "Words may be studied *etymologically*. This means we attempt to understand the word by the way it is formed." (Bernard Ramm, *Protestant Biblical Interpretation*, p. 129)
- **How Does The Root Of The Word Bring Meaning To The Word?**
- Church = *ekklesia*
 - *ek* = out of
 - *kalein* = to call or summon
 - Church = group of believers called out from condemnation to serve God
- Evangelism = *euangelion*
 - *eu* = good
 - *angelos* = message, news
- Bishop = *episkopos*
 - *epi* = over
 - *skopos* = see

V. Spot The Colloquialisms

A. Figures Of Speech

- Give some modern day examples of figures of speech:
 - e.g. "hot under the collar", "raining cats and dogs", "sunset"
- "A *figure* denotes some form which a word or sentence takes, different from its ordinary and natural form. This is always for the purpose of giving additional force, more life, intensified feeling, and greater emphasis." (E. W. Bullinger, *The Figures Of Speech Used In The Bible*, pp. v-vi)

Ordinary-Literal	Figurative-Literal
Normal, plain, ordinary usage	Picturesque, out-of-the-ordinary usage
Plainly expressed literal facts	Figuratively expressed literal facts

(from Roy Zuck's *Basic Bible Interpretation*, p. 148)

- What is the relationship between "figures of speech" and literal interpretation?
 - To interpret literally, the interpreter must recognize and distinguish the use of figurative language in the Scripture.
 - The devil is not literally a "roaring lion" and Jesus is not literally "a thief".
 - Literal interpretation recognizes the author's use of figurative language for the point of impact and style.

1. Understand The Words As Literal Unless There Is Compelling Reason Not To

a. The Statement Is Obviously Irrational, Absurd Or Impossible

- "I am the door" or "You are the salt"
 - obviously irrational if taken literally
- Absurd: "trees clapping their hands" (Isa 55:12)

Revelation 16:15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

b. The Context Indicates Language Is Figurative

- Jesus gives a parable

c. A Contradiction With Other Scriptures Occurs

- "hate mother & father" (Luke 14:26) contradicts both OT & NT plain teaching on loving parents
- "eat My flesh, drink My blood" - Bible against cannibalism

2. The Figurative Expression Is Followed By An Explanatory Literal Statement

- those who “fall asleep (1 Th 4:13-15) is spoken of those who have died (16)
- Paul spoke of the Ephesians as “dead” (Eph 2:1), not physically, but Paul explains they were dead in “transgressions and sins”

3. Identify What The Figure Of Speech Refers To

- stated in the verse
- mentioned somewhere else in the verse

Passage	Image	Non-Image	Point of Comparison
Psalm 1:3	Tree	Believer	Secure, Fruitful
Isaiah 53:6	Sheep	All Men	Wayward Spiritually

4. Understand The Figure Of Speech In The Way The Original Listeners Understood It, Not Our Modern Understanding

- Shepherds & shepherding - different than today with technology
- Staff & rod (staff today is his crew, back then it was a shepherd’s crook
- also warfare, agriculture, marriage

5. Do Not Assume A Figure Always Means The Same Thing

- lion - God and Satan

6. Place Reasonable And Logical Boundaries In Drawing Comparisons

- Jesus said “I will come like a thief” (Rev 3:3 to Sardis), he was not saying he would come to rob them
- Salt of the earth - get carried away with physical properties of salt

B. Parables

- A Parable Is A Realistic Story To Illustrate A Truth
- A Parable Usually Illustrate One Main Point
- A Parable Is Not Intended To Establish Doctrine
- A Parable Encourages The People To Think
- A Parable Relates Truths In A Way People Understand
- A Parable Was Also Used By Jesus To Also Conceal Truth From Unbelievers

1. Understand The Literary Context

a. Identify The Occasion For Telling The Story

- Luke 15 - usually interpret Prodigal Son evangelistically and there are applications, but the main intent was to address the religious leaders who

objected to Christ accepting sinful people - the main point was the older, jealous brother

- Jesus gives the parable of the persistent friend (Lk 11:5-7) in response to a disciple's request "Lord, teach us to pray" (v. 1)
- In Mark 3, Jesus is accused of being possessed by Beelzebub (Mk 3:22), representing how Jesus was attacked by unbelievers. In light of that, we can better understand the darkness of the minds of the unbeliever as stated by Jesus in Mk 4.

Mark 4:11-12 ¹¹And He said to them, "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, ¹²so that 'Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, And their sins be forgiven them.'"

- The disciples had trouble comprehending the parable of the sower because they did not fully comprehend the Kingdom, the role of the Messiah and the relationship to the world.

Mark 4:13 And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?"

b. Identify The Explanation Of The Parable's Meaning When An Explanation Is Given

- In the parable of the soils, an explanation of the parable is provided by Christ
- **Matthew 25:13** - 10 virgins parable concludes with "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming"
- Read Luke 11:5-8 as Case study: What is the occasion and meaning?

Luke 11:5-10⁵And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you?' ⁸I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. ⁹So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

c. Jesus Often Used Parables To Introduce New Truth

- “The art of composing and telling parables demonstrated by Jesus finds no parallel in literature.” (Kistemaker, p. xvi)
- Rabbis in biblical times had a formulaic routine in using parables. They would always begin with: “A parable: To what is it like?” Then the rabbi would use the parable to explain the Law, a Scripture or a doctrine.
- Jesus used parables to introduce new truths (“The kingdom is like...”)

d. Pay Attention To The Final Statement As An Explanation Of The Parable

- A final statement might provide the point of the parable
- In the parable where Jesus hired laborers throughout the day and paid them all the same, raising questions of fairness, Jesus concludes:

Matthew 20:13-15¹³But he answered one of them and said, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. ¹⁵Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?’

e. Note Figures Of Speech And Literary Devices

- Jesus frequently used the literary device of triads
 - Parable of Midnight Traveler: traveler, friend & neighbor
 - Parable of Prodigal Son: father, younger son, older son
 - Parable of Ten Virgins: 5 wise virgins, 5 foolish virgins, bridegroom
- Jesus’ ending is more significant than the beginning

2. Understand The Historical/Cultural Context

- “As we read these stories, we need consciously to leave our twentieth-century Western world. Jesus’ stories draw on the common daily life of first-century Palestine. To hear Him properly, we need to smell the aroma of Jewish villages and feel the dust of Galilean roads. As we seek to enter that world, these stories will come alive with energizing freshness.” (Inrig, p. 8)
- To understand the Parable of the Good Samaritan, we should understand:
 - who the Samaritans are
 - how the Jews viewed the Samaritans
 - the religion of the Samaritans
 - the function of the Jewish priest
 - the status of the Levites to a Jewish audience
 - the topography of the area between Jerusalem and Jericho
 - what “neighbor” means to the Jewish audience

3. Identify The Single Emphasis Of The Parable

- The Parable of the 10 Virgins – main thought: readiness
 - Origen over-aggressively associated several hidden symbols with this parable making the parable into an extensive allegory. (cited by Kistemaker, p. xx)
 - 5 lamps of the wise = 5 senses trimmed to understand God
 - 5 lamps of the foolish = dimmed by night of the world
 - Oil = Word of God
 - Seller of oil = teachers of God's Word
 - Price of oil = perseverance
 - Midnight = time of recklessness
 - Great Cry = from angels trying to awaken all men
 - Bridegroom = Christ coming to meet His bride
 - Bride = the Church
- ie/ Luke 11:5-8 - God answers persistent prayer
- "The Lord's stories are parables, not allegories. Although details may have symbolic significance, more commonly a parable is intended to teach one main point. Therefore, we need to seek to grasp that truth firmly and not wander in the lush forest of speculation, trying to assign 'meaning' to secondary details." (Inrig, p. 8)
- "How does a parable differ from an allegory? John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* is an allegorical presentation of a Christian's journey through life. The names and circumstances in the book are substitutes for reality. Every fact, feature, and name is symbolic, and must be translated point by point into real life in order to be properly understood. A parable, on the other hand, is true to life and generally teaches only one basic truth." (Kistemaker, p. xv)
- "In an allegory, in contrast to a parable, a story is constructed that is not based on reality. Communication through an allegory, then, does not depend on an objective reality but on the subjective use of imagination by the hearer." (Pentecost, p. 13)
- **Exception:** Some complex parables will have more than one application.
 - The Parable of the Sower – 4 parts, each requiring an interpretation
 - Parable of the Wedding Banquet has more than one story each having an application

4. Distinguish The Relevant Details And The Irrelevant Details

ie/ **Luke 11:5-8**

- Irrelevant - happened at midnight; ask for 3 loaves, not 4; for someone else, not himself
- Relevant - persistent neighbor

5. Compare With Parallel And Contrasting Passages

ie/ Luke 11:5-8

- model prayer Luke 11:1-4
- compare to Mt 6:7-15 "Lord's Prayer"
- taught against vain repetitions

Q: Difference between vain repetitions and persistence?

VI. Scope What's Coming

A. Determine The Historical, Grammatical And Cultural Impact On The Prophecy

- *What is the context of the prophecy?*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ¹³But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words.

- The Thessalonians were under great persecution. The concept of the Rapture was a comfort to them.

B. Understand The Words In Its Normal Meaning

- *What is the simplest understanding of the prophecy?*

- Interpret the words literally unless there is compelling reason to not take it literally (figurative language, symbolism)

Amos 9:14-15 ¹⁴I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. ¹⁵I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them," Says the Lord your God.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

- There is no reason to not take "a thousand years" simply and literally.

C. Factor In The Usage Of Figurative Language

- *What is figurative and what is non-figurative?*

1. The language is figurative if the literal interpretation is absurd.

Joel 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.

Isaiah 11:1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

2. Context can also identify figurative language

- Example: The 4 great beasts are identified in the passage. The context thus specifies that the 4 beasts are figurative.

Daniel 7:17 Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth.

- Dreams and visions are also specified in context.

3. A literal statement can have a figurative meaning

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

4. A type represents something to be fulfilled with an antitype.

D. Identify Injected Interpretations

- *How is the prophecy interpreted in the passage?*

Daniel 2:37-45 ³⁷You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; ³⁸and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold. ³⁹But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. ⁴⁰And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others....⁴⁴And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. ⁴⁵Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

E. Compare With Parallel Passages

- *How is the prophecy understood or fulfilled in other passages?*

F. Determine The Prophecies That Are Fulfilled And The Prophecies Awaiting Fulfillment

- *What is already fulfilled and what is yet to be fulfilled?*

G. Allow The Possibility Of Multiple Reference

- *Are there more than two subjects in the prophecy?*

Deuteronomy 18:15-18 ¹⁵“The Lord your God will raise up for you a **Prophet** like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, ¹⁶according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’ ¹⁷“And the Lord said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a **Prophet** like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

- Joshua is the first reference
- Christ is the ultimate reference

H. Recognize The Principle Of Double Fulfillment

- *Is there a possibility of a partial fulfillment and a later fulfillment?*

- J. Edwin Hartell defines the rule of Double Reference as “the peculiarity of the writings of the Holy Spirit, by which a passage applying primarily to a person or event near at hand is used by him at a later time as applying to the person of Christ, or the affairs of His kingdom.” (*Biblical Hermeneutics*, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1947, p. 105)
- H. Strong: “Certain prophecies apparently contain a fulness of meaning which is not exhausted by the event to which they most obviously and literally refer. A prophecy which had a partial fulfillment at a time not remote from its utterance, may find it’s chief fulfillment in an event far distant. Since the principles of God’s administration find ever recurring and enlarging illustration in history, prophecies which have already had a partial fulfillment may have whole cycles of fulfillment yet before them.” (*Systematic Theology, Vol. II*, p. 138)

Isaiah 61:1-3 ¹“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, ³To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”

Luke 4:16-21 ¹⁶So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. ¹⁷And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: ¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me

To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” ²⁰Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

- In Luke, Jesus quotes part of Isa 61:1-3, but stops in the middle of verse 2.
- The portion “and the day of vengeance of our God” is intended to be fulfilled later.

1 Peter 1:10-11¹⁰Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, ¹¹searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

- The prophets have both the first and second coming of Christ contained in their writings.

VII. Solve The Conflicts

- The Bible interpreter will come upon difficult passages that appear to be contradictory to another passage of Scripture. When this dilemma arises, then the interpreter’s goal is, according to J. Robertson McQuiklin, “Since we hold that the Bible is God-breathed and true in all its parts, when a statement appears to be in error, we are committed to seek an explanation.” (*Understanding and Applying The Bible*, p. 203)
- IE/ A little girl was singing Jesus loves me at bus stop and the following conversation ensued:
 - Man: You don’t believe that Jesus died for your sins do you?
 - Girl: Yes, I do!
 - Man: Why?
 - Girl: Because the Bible tells me so
 - Man: You don’t believe the Bible do you? Do you actually believe that Jonah was swallowed by a whale? How could that happen?
 - Girl: Yes, I believe Jonah was swallowed by a whale. I don’t know how, but when I get to heaven, I’ll ask him.
 - Man: What if he’s not in heaven?
 - Girl: Then you ask him.
- History received the Scriptures as inerrant and authoritative all throughout history until the Rationalism movement in the last few centuries.
 - The historic church believed in the inerrant Scriptures, except for a few fringe heretical groups
 - Even the Catholic church affirmed the inerrancy of Scripture, even though they placed Tradition as an authority over the Scripture in practice
 - In the Protestant Reformation, the Scriptures were asserted as declared by Martin Luther who declared: “When the Scripture speaks, God speaks.”

- Rationalism led to Higher Criticism across Europe and America which no longer assumed the Scriptures to be inerrant, but constructed with flaws like any other ensemble human piece of literature
- Norman Geisler identifies 17 mistakes when people think the Bible has errors (*When Critics Ask*, pp. 15-26):

Mistake 1: Assuming that the Unexplained Is Not Explainable.

Mistake 2: Presuming the Bible Guilty Until Proven Innocent

Mistake 3: Confusing Our Fallible Interpretations with God's Infallible Revelation.

Mistake 4: Failing to Understand the Context of the Passage.

Mistake 5: Neglecting to Interpret Difficult Passages in the Light of Clear Ones.

Mistake 6: Basing a Teaching on an Obscure Passage.

Mistake 7: Forgetting that the Bible Is a Human Book with Human Characteristics.

Mistake 8: Assuming that a Partial Report is a False Report.

Mistake 9: Demanding that NT Citations of the OT Always Be Exact Quotations.

Mistake 10: Assuming that Divergent Accounts Are False Ones.

Mistake 11: Presuming that the Bible Approves of All it Records.

Mistake 12: Forgetting that the Bible Uses Non-technical, Everyday Language.

Mistake 13: Assuming that Round Numbers Are False

Mistake 14: Neglecting to Note that the Bible Uses Different Literary Devices.

Mistake 15: Forgetting that Only the Original Text, Not Every Copy of Scripture, Is without Error.

Mistake 16: Confusing General Statements with Universal Ones.

Mistake 17: Forgetting that Later Revelation Supersedes Previous Revelation

- Robert Thomas: "Rare today is a biblical scholar who advocates letting the text speak for itself, in other words, one who strives for the goal of objectivity in interpretation, an objectivity that recognizes that the Scripture itself is meaningful and does not depend on meanings attributed to it by humans. Few strive for objectivity, but objectivity is the major guiding principle in traditional grammatical-historical interpretation." ("The Rationality, Meaningfulness, And Precision Of Scripture," *The Master's Seminary Journal* 15:2, Master's Seminary, Fall, 2004, p. 182)

A. Despite Critiques Of The Bible's Infallibility, The Bible Remains Eternally Authoritative

1. God Cannot Lie Or Error

Hebrews 6:18 That by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began

2 Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

2. The God Who Cannot Lie Or Error Wrote The Scriptures

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

3. **God Conveyed His Truth Through Various Human Instruments**

- The Bible has over 40 different authors
- The Bible was written over a 1,600 years span (Job – Daniel – Revelation)
- The Bible contains diverse writing styles & literary forms – poetry, biography, parables, sermons, proverbs, narratives, letters, prophecies
- Yet the Bible maintains one consistent theme with no contradictions

2 Peter 1:21 For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—

John 19:35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.

4. **The Bible Is The Truth Of God**

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your **word is truth**.

2 Corinthians 6:7 By the **word of truth**, by the power of God

Colossians 1:5 Of which you heard before in the **word of the truth** of the gospel,

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the **word of truth**.

James 1:18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the **word of truth**

5. **The Bible Is Infallible And Cannot Be Nullified Or Found Faulty**

- "Infallible" = *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*: "incapable of being in error," "not liable to mislead, deceive, or disappoint"

Isaiah 55:10-11 For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My

mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Matthew 5:18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Matthew 22:31-32 ³¹But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, ³²I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

B. Alleged Contradictions

1. Two Passages Can Be Different Without Being Contradictory

Judges 4:21 Then Jael, Heber's wife, took a tent peg and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple, and it went down into the ground; for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.

Judges 5:25-27 ²⁵He asked for water, she gave milk; She brought out cream in a lordly bowl. ²⁶She stretched her hand to the tent peg, Her right hand to the workmen's hammer; She pounded Sisera, she pierced his head, She split and struck through his temple. ²⁷At her feet he sank, he fell, he lay still; At her feet he sank, he fell; Where he sank, there he fell dead.

2. Different Accounts Express A Variety Of Opinions And Perspectives

ie/ Inscription On Cross

Mt 27:27 "This is Jesus the King of the Jews"

Mk 15:26 "The King of the Jews"

Lk 23:38 "This is the King of the Jews"

Jn 19:19 "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews"

- It is possible that Matthew read the Hebrew inscription, Mark the Latin, John the Greek, and Luke combined them
- Or perhaps the complete inscription was "This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" and each recorded a part

3. Understanding The Original Greek And Hebrew Words Can Clear Up Passages Where Bad Translations Occur

4. There Are Manuscript Variations Due To Copyist Errors

- Haplography - the writing of a letter, syllable, or word only once, when it should have been written more than once
- Dittography - the writing twice of that which should have been written but once

- Metathesis - reversing the proper position of letters or words
- Fusion - the combining of two separate words into one
- Fission - the dividing up of a single word into two words
- Homophony - the substitution of one homonym for another
- Misreading of similar appearing letters
- Homoeoteleuton - the omission of an intervening passage because the copyist' eye had skipped from one ending to another

5. Figurative Language And Parables Must Be Understood As Literary Devices

ie/ mustard seed - smallest of seeds is like basketball players are the tallest of men

6. One Author Might Have Another Purpose From Another

- Are the authors confused in who was involved in the crucifixion dialogue?

Matthew 27:44 Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.

- Matthew wanted to highlight the opposition

Luke 23:39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."

- Luke wanted to highlight the repentance of the lucid criminal

7. Two Events Might Appear Similar But Are Distinct

- The Feeding of the 4,000 and 5,000 are two separate events

8. Some Teachings Are Beyond The Realm Of Human Understanding (ie/ Trinity, Sovereignty Vs Free Will, Miracles)

9. Other Explanations For Alleged Discrepancies In The Bible (from Haley)

a. Differences Of Time

- What may be true in one dispensation is different in another
- Physical prosperity for faithfulness in Dt 28-30; Eternal rewards in NT (Rom 8:18-25)
- Feed 4,000 and 5,000 were two separate events

b. Differences Of Authorship

c. Differences Of Perspective

ie/ 4 blind men & an elephant

- d. Differences Of Arrangement
- some chronological, some not
- e. Differences Of Computation
- dif. calendars, measuring systems
- f. Difference Of Language
- Heb, Aramaic terms
- poetic, narrative
- g. Differences Of Names

ie/ Peter, Simon, Simeon, Cephas, Simon Peter, Simon Bar Jona, Simon Son Of Jonas
- h. Differences Of Word Meanings
ie/ hot, cool, sharp, bad
- i. Differences Of Manuscripts
- small percentage
- j. Differences Of Author And Reader
- some spend time finding error than solutions

C. Historical Contradictions

1. Historical Advancements Continually Demonstrate The Bible's Reliability

2. Archaeological Discoveries Confirm The Bible's Reliability

- Dr. Nelson Glueck, leading Jewish authority on Israeli archeology: "No archeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical descriptions has often led to amazing discoveries."
- Dr. William Albright, not supportive of Christianity, but leading archeologist: "There can be no doubt that archeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Old Testament."
- In 2 Kings 18:14, Hezekiah pays Assyria a tribute of 300 talents of silver, 30 talents of gold. But an archaeologist discovered an Assyrian record of that transaction - 800 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold. Later archaeology found out that there was a different standard of calculating silver between Judea and Assyria even though they measured gold the same.

- Genesis 14 speaks of Abraham's victory over Chedorlaomer and 5 kings from Mesopotamia. Once rejected as fictitious by critics, the Ebla tablets (discovered in 1960), which were records of an ancient kingdom, recorded this event and its geography.
- Joshua records Jericho's ruined walls to have fallen inward. In 1930, Dr. John Garstang claimed that the walls fell outward and disputed the Bible. In 1990, archeologist Kathleen Kenyon stated that Jericho's walls fell inward and suddenly (Time, 3/5/90). The dates were discovered to align to the biblical dates.
- "Now the sands of the Middle East are yielding secrets hidden for thousands of years that shed surprising new light on the historical veracity of those sacred writings. In this decade alone, archaeologists in Israel have unearthed amazing artifacts pertaining to two important figures from the Bible: a ninth-century B.C. stone inscription bearing the name of David, the ancient Israelite warrior-king who killed the giant Goliath, and a first century A.D. tomb believed to be that of Caiaphas, the Jerusalem high priest who presided over the trial of Jesus. In both cases, it was the first archaeological evidence ever discovered suggesting that the two existed beyond the pages of the Bible." (Jeffrey Sheler, "Mysteries of the Bible," U.S. News & World Report, April 17, 1985)

D. Scientific Accuracy

1. The Bible Is Not Primarily A Science Book But Is Accurate In Matters Of Science

2. The Bible Is Accurate In Matters Of Science

(examples from "Is The Bible True?" by Henry Morris & Martin Clark)

- Roundness of the earth (Isaiah 40:22)
- Almost infinite extent of the sidereal universe (Isaiah 55:9)
- Law of conservation of mass and energy (II Peter 3:7)
- Hydrologic cycle (Ecclesiastes 1:7)
- Vast number of stars (Jeremiah 33:22)
- Law of increasing entropy (Psalm 102:25-27) Paramount importance of blood in life processes (Leviticus 17:11)
- Atmospheric circulation (Ecclesiastes 1:6) Gravitational field (Job 26:7) and many others.

VIII. Specify With Certainty

- "The basic question asked in theological analysis is 'How does this passage fit into the total pattern of God's revelation?' It immediately becomes evident that another question must first be answered, namely, 'What *is* the pattern of God's revelation?...Once the pattern of divine revelation has been dealt with the question of how a particular passage fits into that total pattern becomes much easier to answer.'" (Henry Virkler, *Hermeneutics*, p. 117)
- Theology Proper: The Doctrine of God

- Christology: The Doctrine of Jesus Christ
- Pneumatology: The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit
- Anthropology: The Doctrine of Man
- Soteriology: The Doctrines of Salvation
- Ecclesiology: The Doctrine of the Church
- Bibliology: The Doctrine of the Scriptures
- Angelology: The Doctrine of Angels
- Satanology: The Doctrine of Satan
- Demonology: The Doctrine Of Demons
- Eschatology: The Doctrines of the Last Things

A. The Goal Is Not For Knowledge Alone

1 Corinthians 8:1 Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.

B. The Goal Is To Understand God's Truth So We Would Grow And Be Perfected In God's Truth

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Ephesians 4:13-14 ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

C. We Will Not Have Full Understanding, But Will Do Our Best To Understand What We Can

1. God Does Not Reveal Everything In This Lifetime

Proverbs 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

2. God Knows We Are Not Able To Comprehend The Totality Of God's Truth

John 16:12 I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

Isaiah 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

3. We Will Grow In Our Knowledge And Ultimately Have Perfect Understanding When We Get To Heaven

1 Corinthians 13:9-12 ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

D. Form Your Understanding Of A Doctrine By Proper Exegesis Of Each Text

J. Robertson McQuilkin instructs the following procedures in assembling doctrinal data: (summarized from *Understanding and Applying the Bible*, pp. 194-202)

- 1. Data must be assembled and organized**
- 2. A specific doctrine must be systematized**
- 3. Data varies in importance**
 - The clear passage is to be preferred above the obscure
 - Greater weight is to be given to teaching often repeated
 - Direct, literal teaching should be given preference
 - Later revelation takes precedence over earlier revelation in building doctrine.
- 4. Base the doctrine solely on the Bible**
 - Do not build on inference
 - Do not build on tradition
 - Do not build doctrine on other extra-biblical sources
 - Bible doctrine should reflect Bible emphases

IX. Supplement Through Cross-Referencing

A. Comparing Passages

- 1. Locate And Compare Parallel Passages By The Same Author**
- 2. Locate And Compare Parallel Passages By Different Authors**
 - Samuel, Kings and Chronicles parallel historic events in David's time
 - All four Gospels parallel historic events in Christ's life
- 3. Helpful Tools:**
 - *The Treasury Of Scripture Knowledge* by R. A. Torrey – This treasure of a treasury lists every verse of the Bible in order and gives cross-referencing passages for every verse.

B. Comparing Concepts

- 1. Locate And Compare Similar Concepts**
 - Example: "Hate" and "Love" in Discipleship

Luke 14:26 If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

Matthew 10:37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

John 12:25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

2. Locate And Compare Contrasting Passages

- Example: Should we judge?

Matthew 7:1 "Judge not, that you be not judged.

Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Matthew 7:15-16 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?"

John 7:24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1 John 4:6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error

3. Helpful Tools:

- **A Topical Bible** – Topical Bibles give several verses according to alphabetized topics
 - *Naves Topical Bible*
 - *The MacArthur Topical Bible*
 - *Nelson's Topical Bible Index*
- **A Concordance** – A concordance lists every verse of a word occurring in the Bible alphabetically.
 - The topical Bible is more stream-lined than a concordance because it focuses on themes (major), whereas a concordance details every word (major and minor).

C. Comparing Words

1. Compare The Use Of A Word In English With Its Usage Throughout The Bible

- A concordance will list the occurrence of every English word

2. Compare The Use Of A Word In The Original Language With Its Usage Throughout The Bible

Resource	Description	Type Of Bridge	Recommendations
Atlas	maps showing biblical locations & periods	geographic	Beitzel - <i>Moody Bible Atlas</i>
Bible Dictionary & Encyclopedia	describes people, places, things, doctrines, cultures, and words (Encyclopedia is larger & more comprehensive than dictionary)	linguistic, cultural, geographic, chronological	Unger - <i>New Unger's Bible Dict</i> Douglas - <i>New Bible Dictionary</i> <i>Zondervan Pictorial Encyc. (5v)</i>
Handbook	overview of Bible books, chapters & background	linguistic, cultural	Ungers or Halleys
Commentary	scholarly description of verses and passages; provides words studies & context background	linguistic, cultural, literary, chronological	Walvoord & Zuck (ed.) - <i>Bible Knowledge Commentary (2v)</i> Wiersbe - <i>Bible Exp. on N.T (2v)</i> <i>The Expositor's Bible Com. (12)</i>
Survey	summary of background, overview of book	literary	OT-Jenson; Geisler; Wilmington NT-Jenson, Gromacki, Wilm.
Introduction	details and defends background, purpose, authorship, audience, outline	literary, cultural	OT - Gleason Archer NT - Hiebert (3 vol); Guthrie
Expository Dictionary	defines words as used in original language	linguistic	OT - Theol. Wordbook of O.T. NT - Vines; Colin Brown (3 vol)
Concordance	find verses according to word	linguistic	KJV(Strong's, Young's),NIV,NAS
Topical	find verses according to topic	linguistic	<i>Naves Topical Bible</i>
Treasury	cross references every verse in Bible	linguistic	<i>Treasury of Scripture Knowledge</i>

VI. Submit To The Commands

The Pattern Of Biblical Application

Mark 4:33-35 ³³And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it. ³⁴But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples. ³⁵On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side."

- Read it (33)
- Explain it (34)
- Apply it (35)

	Read It	Explain It	Apply It
Mark 4	33 "He spoke the word"	34 "He explained all things"	35 Jesus applied lesson of faith through real life situation
Psalm 78	1-6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incline ear (1) • Open mouth (2a) • Utter Word (2b) • Tell of God's Works (4) • Make known to children (5-6) 	9-72 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover events in Scripture • Explain intervention of God before man: led (14, gave (15), brought (16), caused (16,26), slew (34), forgave (38), remembered (39), destroyed, (51), drove (55), forsook (60), delivered (61), rejected (67), chose (68) • Identify attributes of God: marvelous (12), fury (21), power (26), compassion (38), grieving (40) • Explain reasons for sinful and righteous human responses: sinned (17,32), 	7-8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Responsibilities (7): Hope, Remember, Keep • The Reasons (8): Avoid stubbornness & rebellion

		rebelled (17), not believe (22,32), remembered (35), provoked(40),turned back/aside(57)	
Deut 6	7-9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach frequently • Display ubiquitously 	20-23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the meaning • Illustrate with stories or parables 	5-6; 24-25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Responsibilities: Fear (2,13,24), Love (5), Beware (12), Keep (2,17), Observe/Do (1-3,18,24) • The Reasons: God's Lordship (4), Our Preservation (24)

A. Assess To Whom The Passage Is Addressed

1. Who Is Being Addressed In The Passage?

Titus 1:5-6 ⁵For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you— ⁶if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.

- V. 5 is specific to Titus
- V. 6 is general – to all males

2. Is There A Command To Be Universally Obeyed?

- Loving God

Matthew 22:37-40 ³⁷Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

- Not Murdering

Exodus 20:13 You shall not murder.

Matthew 5:21 You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'

1 John 3:15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

3. Is The Passage Specific To A Person/People In History?

a. God Works Differently In Different Times And Different People

- In Leviticus 11, Israel was prohibited to eat certain foods, but that was repealed in Acts 10:9-16; cf. 1 Tim 4:4)

b. We Need To Determine What Is Normative For Today

- Richard Mayhue points out what we should not find normal for us today (*How To Interpret The Bible For Yourself*, p. 148-149):
 - We shouldn't expect a trip to the 3rd Heaven (2 Cor 12:1-10)
 - We shouldn't expect God to miraculously refill food barrels for those who feed itinerant preachers like the Widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:8-16)
 - We don't have to dip lepers 7x in the river (2 Kings 5:1-14)
 - We won't get a serpent by throwing a stick to the ground (Ex 4:2-3)

4. **Is There An Action Commanded Though The Specific Application Is Difficult To Employ?**

1 Timothy 2:2 For kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

- We are commanded to pray for our king. But if we don't have a king, we could apply this command to our governmental leaders.

Matthew 5:22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

- Maybe you don't say "Raca", but other derogatory language could be applied.

5. **Is There A Principle To Follow Though The Cultural Application Is Different From Today?**

- Greet one another with a holy kiss (5x in NT) – greet, love
- Women wearing veils to pray (1 Cor 11:5) – spirit of submission
- Footwashing (Jn 13:14) – servanthood

a. Determine The Timeless Principle To Be Obeyed

b. Determine If The Cultural Expression Is Relevant Today

6. **Does The Narrative Passage Illustrate A Principle To Obey?**

J. Robertson McQuilkin gives these principles in applying narrative texts (pp. 261-262)

- "When Scripture itself evaluates an event and gives the reason for that evaluation, the historical event has the highest authority for being normative.
- If Scripture evaluates a historic event as worthy of commendation or condemnation, but does not make the reason clear, it is legitimate to use that event along with clear teaching of Scripture, in deducing a principle. But the principle so derived does not have the same level of certainty.
- On the lowest level of usefulness are those historic events on which Scripture does not render a judgment. Although those passages may be used to illustrate

truth clearly taught elsewhere, they may not be used independently to establish normative Christian doctrine or behavior.”

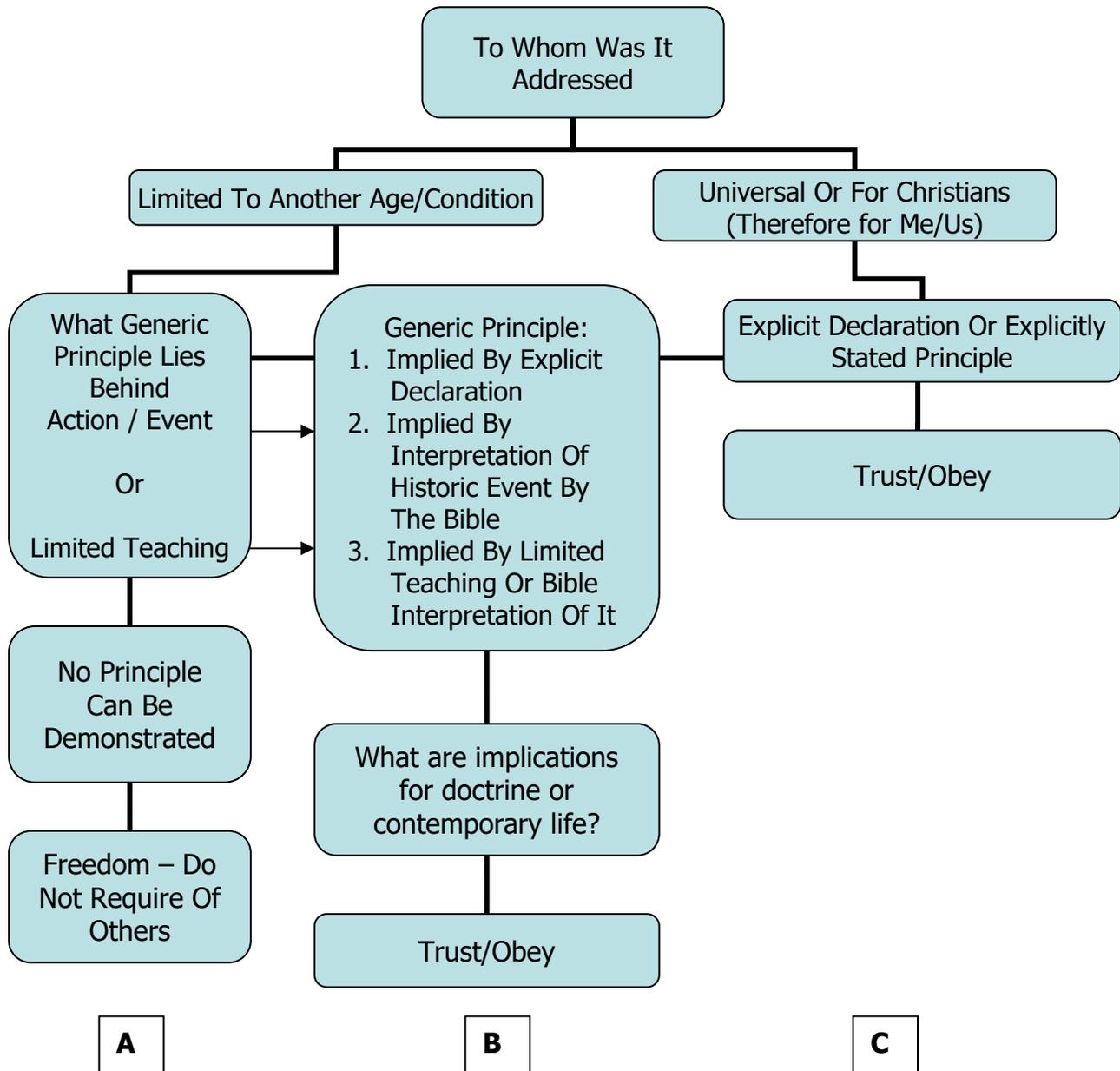


Chart From J. Robertson McQuilkin, *Understanding And Applying The Bible*, p. 265

B. Ascertain Spiritual Principles From The Passage.

1. Seek The Practical Truth

(questions from Hendricks/Hendricks, *Living By The Book*)

a. Is there an example for me to follow?

- b. Is there a sin to avoid?
- c. Is there a promise to claim?
- d. Is there a prayer to repeat?
- e. Is there a command to obey?
- f. Is there a condition to meet?
- g. Is there a verse to memorize?
- h. Is there an error to mark?
- i. Is there a challenge to face?

2. Determine A Practical Principle

- “Personal application involves the working out from the passage *a principle* that is true for anyone who belongs to God or a principle for individuals in parallel situations.” (A. Berkeley Mickelsen, *Interpreting The Bible*, p. 357)

- a. The Principle Is A Bridge From The Text To Application
 - List the principles of the following passage:

Philippians 4:6-8 ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

- b. The Principle May Not Be Directly Stated, But Is Clearly Inferred

Matthew 5:41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

Matthew 5:22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.

C. Apply The Passage To Your Life

1. Examine Your Life

1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

2. Evaluate Your Life In Light Of The Scripture

2 Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- Your relationship to God (Lordship, holiness, obedience, etc.)
- Your relationship with yourself (sin, attitudes, thought life, will, etc.)
- Your relationship to people (parents, friends, leaders, siblings, etc.)
- Your relationship to enemies (forgiveness, suffering, attitudes, etc.)
- Your relationship to your responsibilities (diligence, God's glory, apathy, etc.)
- Your relationship to your church (service, encouragement, sacrifice, etc.)

3. Employ The Scriptural Principle To Specific Areas Of Your Life

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

4. Experience The Change Through The Program Of The Word And The Power Of The Holy Spirit

