

October 11 Lesson Outline (Q:6 & 7)

Q7: What principles can help me interpret the NT?

1: Place yourself Under Scripture to be interpreted by it, not Over Scripture to interpret it

- Accept them as the highest authority, allowing them to rule over us

2: Trust your English translations of the Bible

- a) **Word-for-Word**: literal, carefully interpret each word from the original Greek, Hebrew, or Aramaic into English; tend to be the best for studying because of their accuracy, (suggested versions: King James, English Standard, New American Standard, New King James)
- b) **Thought-for-Thought**: interpreting the Scripture's entire meaning, and not just the individual words; may include words not including the original text, to give the same meaning that the original languages would have had (suggested versions: New International, Today's New International, New Living, Contemporary English, Good News)
- c) **Paraphrase**: pay even less attention to specific word meanings than thought-for-thought; some versions do not even have verse divisions (examples: The Message, Living, Amplified)
- d) **Corruption**: "translations" that clearly seek to undermine the very teaching of Scripture (examples: New World (Jehovah's Witness))

3: Do not read Into the Scriptures, but read From the Scriptures

- Be careful to read the truth out of the Bible (*exegesis*) rather than reading our beliefs and desires into it (*eisegesis*); do not use them to support an untruth – come to the Bible to learn what it says

4: Interpret the Bible Literally

- we assume that what we are reading, seeing, or hearing is to be taken literally – unless doing so is nonsense (such as Phil 3:2, when Paul refers to men as dogs – a clear figurative reference)

5: Distinguish between Descriptive and Prescriptive texts of Scripture

- Descriptive text is what happened,
- prescriptive text is what should happen

6: Read and study the Scriptures Intentionally

- a) Who is the author?
- b) Who is the audience that is being spoken to?
- c) What was the original cultural context?
- d) Why was the book written?
- e) What are the units of thought in the book?
- f) What is the biblical context (surrounding verses? How does the passage/verse fit with the overall book? How does the passage/verse fit into overall biblical revelation?)
- g) What is revealed about God (any attributes)?
- h) How does this connect to Jesus?
- i) What sins do I need to repent of?
- j) What principles need integration into my life?

7: Be careful not to confuse principles and methods

- Biblical principles are timeless, whereas biblical methods are timely

8: Come to the Scriptures seeking principles for application

- Application means taking what we learn from biblical principles, and making changes in our thoughts and actions so that our lives are congruent with the Bible

9: Read the Scriptures realistically

- The NT does not present a flawless church filled with flawless people who loved and served Jesus flawlessly; the NT does speak of some decent churches (Philippi, Thessalonica), but many churches were not (Corinth, Ephesus, Galatia)

Q8: How did Jesus interact with the Scriptures?

1) Jesus Studied Scripture ((Luke 2:46-52)

2) Jesus Memorized Scripture (Matt 4:1-11)

3) Jesus Obedyed Scripture (Heb 4:15, Luke 11:28); hearing the Word of God is not sufficient

4) Jesus often spent time in Silence and solitude (Luke 5:16); just as we need time with those we love to build relationships, we also need time with Jesus alone to build our relationship with Him alone

5) Jesus lived in Community (John 11:5, 13:23); getting alone with God to learn Scripture and enjoying time with people to live Scripture are equally important to cultivating a healthy, biblical life

6) Jesus Taught Scripture (Luke 6:3)

7) Jesus Shared the truths of Scripture evangelistically with non-Christians (Luke 19