

D-LIFE BOOT CAMP

Training for a lifestyle
of discipleship.

dlife

Discipleship. Anytime. Anywhere.

Keeping it Real
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Dale L. Crawley Sr.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Rev. Deborah Crawley, Teacher
Sis. Tammi Crummy, Asst. Teacher

HOW TO MEDITATE AND STUDY GOD'S WORD

We need to read, study and apply the Bible properly. There are five basic guidelines you should remember as you study God's Word:

1. **Study** the original meaning of the individual words of a passage noted in the original language. *A Bible dictionary or commentary helps.*
 2. **Observe** the grammatical structure.
 3. **Consider** the wide passage from which the text is drawn.
 4. Answer important questions about a biblical book such as, "**Who** wrote it?" and "**When** was it written?" and "**Why** was it written?" and "To **whom** was it written?" and "**What** was their situation and the timing?"
 5. **Compare** other Scriptures that relate to a specific passage being considered.
- Always, Scripture must interpret Scripture.

Hermeneutics, is the study of the general principles of biblical interpretation. For both Jews and Christians throughout their histories, the primary purpose of hermeneutics, and of the exegetical methods employed in interpretation, has been to discover the truths and values expressed in the Bible; *hermeneutics* refers to the philosophical study of interpretation.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Tim 2:15 KJV

Rules of Interpretation

1. Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding of the truths you’re reading and for a greater hunger for God’s word. (Ps. 5:3)

2. Identification

Different literary genres (kinds of literature) are interpreted in different ways, so the first question to ask is: “To which category of literature does the text you are interpreting belong?”

3. Observation

This is carefully going over the text to see what is going on, the “who, what, where, when, how and why.

4. Interpretation

This is taking what is said and finding out what does the text mean. How to interpret literally in the correct context. That is we never take out of God’s Word what is not there, or read in our will as His.

† Take the Bible Literally

Much harm has been done by trying to “spiritualize” the Bible instead of taking it literally.

† Keep it in Context

It is always good to use Scripture verses to prove a teaching or principle, but it is important not to lift a verse out of its context.

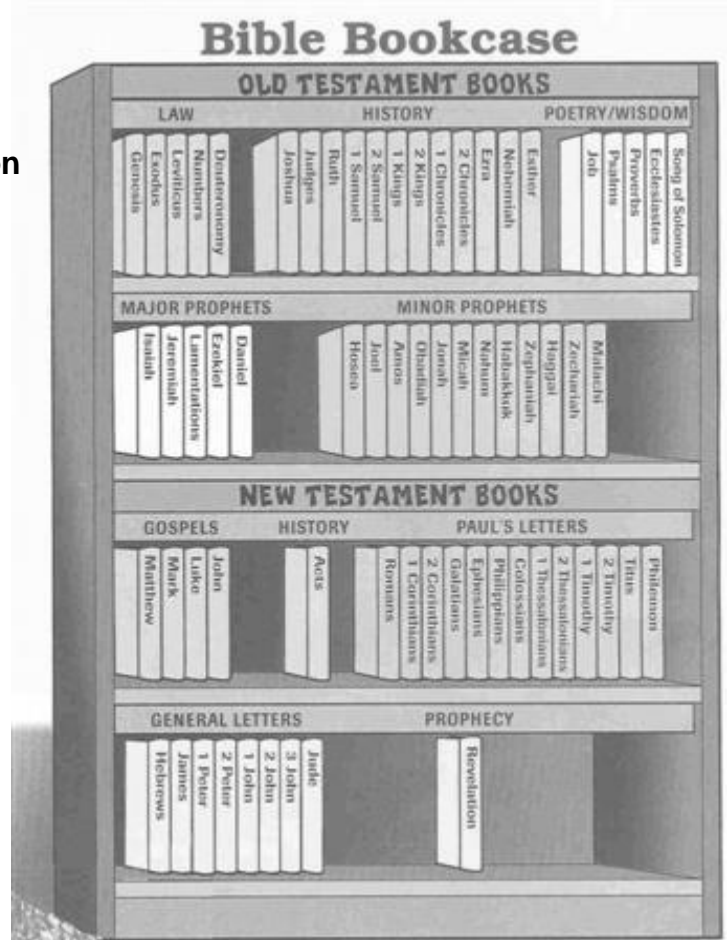
† Watch for idioms

Every language has its idioms. In fact, idioms are one of the most complex parts of language study. (ex. “saved by the skin of your teeth”, “How are you making out?”)

† Be alert to the figurative use of language

When language is not used literally, the author will often resort to figures of speech.

1. *Metaphor* – compares two things by identifying one with the other. (Matt. 5:13, Luke 22:19,20) (e.g. raining cats and dogs)
2. *Simile* – compares two things, and usually the words “like” or “so” or “as” are used to introduce them. (Matt. 10:16) (e.g. as brave as a lion)
3. *Analogy* – a comparison of two things wherein one explains the other. Usually



an analogy is used as a type of reasoning. (1 Cor. 1:18) (e.g. “Life is like a box of chocolates—you never know what you're gonna get.”)

4. *Hyperbole* – a deliberate attempt to exaggerate for the purpose of attracting attention. (Matt. 7:3) (e.g. “There's enough food in the cupboard to feed an entire army!”)
5. *Personification* – this word essentially means ascribing human characteristics to God.

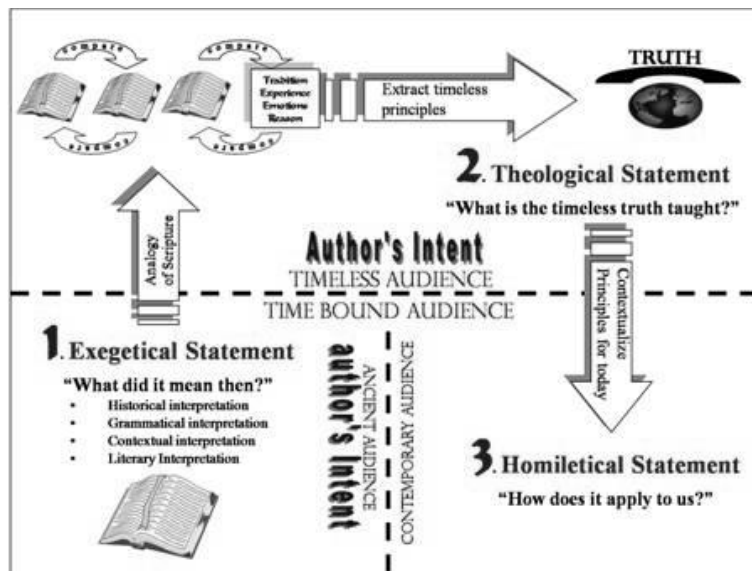
† Treat Parables Differently

A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

5. Application

This is taking the plain meaning and putting it to practical use.

These five simple rules are not all the rules of hermeneutics, but they are the ones that you should familiarize yourself with because they are the ones you are most likely to confront.



Tools for Bible Study Inventory

1. Bible (at least 5 translations) □

The first and foremost requirement for becoming a Bible student is a good Bible. You are probably well aware of the fact that there are all kinds of Bibles on the market, from translations and paraphrases to mistranslations.

2. Bible Handbook □

A Bible Handbook provides a short Bible commentary, maps, historical backgrounds, archaeological background, tables of weights and measures, lists of kings and genealogies and much more information.

3. Bible Concordance □

A Bible Concordance is an alphabetical index of words used in the [Holy Bible](#), showing contextual occurrences of each word throughout the Bible's 66 separate literary works. The classic exhaustive Bible Concordance for the classic English translation of the Bible (the 1611 King James Version) is the ***Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible***.

4. Bible Dictionary □

Another vital tool for Bible study is a good Bible dictionary. Frequently you will find subjects, words, places, or doctrines that need to be described fully.

-**Easton's Bible Dictionary**

- **Holman Bible Dictionary**

- **Vine's Expository Dictionary**

5. Bible Commentary □

Because of the antiquity of the Bible, its occasionally heavy theological subjects, and the fact that it was written in a language and to a people quite different from our own, it is very helpful to have a trustworthy Bible commentary to turn to when a passage does not seem too clear.

-**Bible Knowledge Commentary**

- **Matthew Henry's Commentary**

- **Life Application Commentary**

6. A Systematic Theology □

A systematic theology is, as its name implies, an attempt to systematize all of the teaching of Scripture according to approximately ten crucial categories such as the Bible, God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, Angels (holy and fallen), man, sin, salvation, the church, and the end times. These books can be very helpful because they have Scripture indexes at the back and may actually comment on a passage you are studying and alert you to broader implications of the truths found in the passage. I recommend, for the beginning student, Millard J. Erickson, ***Systematic Theology*** (Baker, '83-'85) or Wayne Grudem, ***Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*** (Zondervan, '94). Both of these are excellent introductions to theology.

7. Bible Atlas □

You can use the one in the back of your Bible if you like or get another more complete atlas such as: Harry Thomas Frank, ed., *Atlas of the Bible Lands*, rev. ed. Maplewood New Jersey: Hammond, 1990. The ISBN number for the soft cover edition is 0-8437-7055-4 and the Library of Congress number is G2230.H3. Another good atlas is: Dowley, *Atlas of the Bible and Christianity* (Baker, '97).

Bible Tools Websites

1. www.biblegateway.com (various versions, commentaries, topical index, dictionaries)
 2. www.studylight.org (various versions, commentaries, concordance, dictionary, history)
 3. www.bible.org
 4. www.blueletterbible.org
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