

How to Read and Study Your Bible

Lesson 2

Practice – 1 Corinthians 8

What are the challenges of reading and understanding and studying a passage like this?

Cultural differences

Language and logic

Challenges for application?

A word picture: Taking a trip. What is involved in taking this trip?

What is a memorable trip that you have taken? Think about what was involved?

Why Bible study is more like an expedition

A. Culture shift

Influence of home culture - moving to a different culture

Quote by Mark Twain - "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness."

B. The vehicle that gets us there - sound process of study or reading using good tools with the right spiritual commitments.

2 Timothy 2:15, for instance, Paul writes, "Study to show yourself approved."

We've got to understand the language, the forms of communication, the historical backdrop, aspects of the culture, what God was saying to them in that place at that time.

The way language works.

Context is king.

Respect for the way God has chosen to speak.

C. The foreign culture: The difference between meaning and significance (Did)

What is our destination? What I want to suggest is to understand the original meaning of the text as much as we can as given in the place, time, and situation in which God revealed his truth.

Fee and Stuart - a text cannot mean what it never meant.

And another way of saying this is if a text can mean anything, then it doesn't mean anything in particular.

"Put off the old man."

D. The return home - Principle (Does)

The vehicle for getting us back home is grasping the significance of what we've learned. How does God's truth apply to us? We may not be dealing with the same type of situation that Paul describes, but how does God's truth apply to us today?

- 1) Shared life experiences?
- 2) Biblical principles that are universally true and relevant?

Similarities and differences with the people of Corinth.

Even when I'm dealing with an area of freedom for myself, I need to evaluate how my decisions are having an effect on other people, specifically people who may not be very mature Christians or haven't been in the church very long. How are my decisions affecting them?

E. Bringing this all back home - Significance (Apply)

What are some areas of my life in which I may feel freedom but my choices could have a very negative impact on other believers around me in the church?

The God of all the universe has acted and spoken his truth about life in specific times, places, languages, and cultures in history, his revelation has been recorded in and expressed through his inspired Scriptures, thus the Bible is the most important book in all history for people to read, study, and apply to their lives.