

Bible Study Skills For All

OKC Fall Discipleship Conference

Steve Presswood, Sep. 2015

Three Primary Components of Bible Study

- Observation
- Interpretation
- Application (after Evaluation)

Traina teaches a 4th component: Correlation

Three Primary Components of Bible Study

(& how much time to spend on them)

- **Observation** (What does it say?) 85%
- **Interpretation** (What does it mean?) 10%
- **Application** (after Evaluation) (So what?) 5%

Traina teaches a 4th component: Correlation

Observation

To do this well, one must be...

- Willing
- Exacting
- Persistent

Agassiz and the Fish (Google Agassiz and the Fish story. Use bethel.edu entry)

Observation

As you observe, look for and take note of...

- Terms (types, inflections, routine vs. non-routine)
- Structure (clauses, sentences, paragraphs, etc.)
- Literary Forms (the genre, the type of writing)

Observation

II Peter marking convention

- Peter, I, we (author)
- recipients, you
- prophecy
- knowledge
- remind
- true (circled) contracted w/ false (boxed)
- diligent (sweat drop)
- destroy
- promise

(look inside these brackets for things God wants you to do.)

Note the progression. The believer's life is built on faith but that is not the end. To each well-practical quality will be added (or should be added) another:

- 8 Love
- 7 Brotherly kindness
- 6 Godliness
- 5 Perseverance
- 4 Self-Control
- 3 Knowledge
- 2 Moral Excellence
- 1 Faith

Love is the pinnacle of these qualities. All are to be added to one's character DILIGENTLY!

Chapter 1 Theme *Christ's promised return told through gentleness*

1 ¹Simon Peter, a ²bond-servant and ³apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received ⁴a faith* of the same ⁵kind as ours, ⁶by the righteousness of ⁷our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: >

2 ¹Grace and peace be multiplied to you in ²the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

3 seeing that His ¹divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the ²true knowledge of Him who ³called us ⁴by His own glory and ⁵excellence.

4 ¹For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent ²promises, in order that by them you might become ³partakers of the divine nature, having ⁴escaped the ⁵corruption that is in ⁶the world by lust. >

5 Now (for this very reason also) ¹applying all diligence, in your faith ²supply ³moral ⁴excellence, and in your moral excellence, ⁵knowledge;

6 and in your knowledge, ¹self-control, and in your self-control, ²perseverance, and in your perseverance, ³godliness;

7 and in your godliness, ¹brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.)

8 For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor ¹unfruitful in the ²true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For he who lacks these *qualities* is ¹blind or short-sighted, having forgotten ²his purification from his former sins.

10 Therefore, brethren, ¹be all the more diligent to make certain about His ²calling and ³choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never ⁴stumble;

11 for in this way ¹the entrance into ²the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be ³abundantly ⁴supplied to you. >

1:1 *Most ea
mss. read S
2Or, value
3Rom. 1:1; Ph
James 1:1; J
41 Pet. 1:1
5Rom. 1:12;
2 Cor. 4:13; T
6Rom. 3:21-2
7Titus 2:13
8 2 Rom. 1:7;
1 Pet. 1:2
9John 17:3;
Phil. 3:8; 2 Pe
8; 2:20; 3:18
10 3 Or possibl
2Or, virtue
11 1 Pet. 1:5
12 John 17:3;
Phil. 3:8; 2 Pe
8; 2:20; 3:18
13 1 Thess. 2:1
14 2 Thess. 2:14
15 1 Pet. 5:10
16 4 Lit, Throu
which (thing)
17 2 Pet. 3:9, 13
18 Eph. 4:13, 24
19 Heb. 12:10;
20 1 John 3:2
21 2 Pet. 2:18, 2
22 2 Pet. 2:19
23 James 1:27
24 5 Or, virtue
25 2 Pet. 1:11
26 2 Pet. 1:3
27 2 Pet. 1:2
28 6 Acts 24:25
29 Luke 21:19
30 2 Pet. 1:3
31 7 Rom. 12:10
32 1 Pet. 1:22
33 8 Col. 1:10
34 John 17:3;
35 Phil. 3:8; 2 Pe
3; 2:20; 3:18
36 9 1 John 2:1
37 Eph. 5:26;

Observation—Exercise

From Mark 12:18-27...

- Note the literary genre.
- Note the author's introduction to the encounter between Jesus and the Sadducees. What bearing do these comments have on interpreting the interaction?
- Is there any significance to Jesus' commentary at the beginning and the end of His direct answer to the Sadducees question?
- Do you see the irony in the Sadducees' question?
- Why might the Sadducees have posed this question to Jesus?
- How does Jesus quote prove that there is a resurrection from the dead? On what does His argument hinge?

Interpretation

Interpretation involves, among other things, empathy with the author and his hearers. The use of imagination is, thus, important to the task of interpretation—not fancifully speculations or imagining implausible possibilities disconnected from the truth but recreating the realities of another place and time in our mind so as to “get in their moccasins.”

Interpretation

Interpretation, though a somewhat academic exercise can't merely be an academic one.

Read and consider Jesus' teaching in John 5:39-40

Interpretation--Exercise

Continue thinking on the passage in Mark. What does it mean? What's the main idea of the passage? Why did the Sadducees ask their question? Why did Jesus respond as He did? And, in another "layer," why did Mark include this material in his book?

Cautions when Interpreting

1. Don't simply interpret the parts that are interesting to you.
2. Don't reason your way into a personal bias.
3. Properly treat literary forms (i.e. literal vs. figurative).
4. Don't over-allegorize without a strong basis for doing so.
5. Don't create "systems" of thought where none are prescribed.
6. Don't extrapolate beyond what is clearly intended.
7. Don't force types.

Application (after Evaluation)

1. Determine the relative importance of the thing you've learned.
2. What is the gap between where you are and what you've learned? (S-P-E-C-K)
3. How will you apply what you've learned? (S-M-A-R-T)

Colossians

Be Like Christ

(In character, in goals, in actions)

Level 1

Level 2

1:1-29 Paul & Tim. to church at Colossae: you started well in Christ, the preeminent One; God wants & we labor that you might finish well—becoming like Christ, mature in Him.

2:1-4:1 Since Christ is supreme & your very life, chase after Him alone, let all you say & do be done in His name, pray & act to advance His gospel with everyone.

Level 3

1:1-2 Paul & Timothy to church at Colossae: blessings.

1:3-14 Cs started well in Christ, keep going & growing in Him, walking worthy, bearing fruit, relying on Him.

1:15-29 God wants & Paul labors for saints to KNOW the preeminent Christ is in you; be like Him, mature.

2:1-23 Because of Christ's supremacy, pursue Him, not substituting shadow for substance, worldly for heavenly, man's wisdom for God's, religion for relationship.

3:1-10 Christ your life must dominate your mindset. OR self put off. Christ-like self put on. New self does & says all in the name of the Lord Jesus.

3:18-4:1 Examples of Christ-likeness, the new self, in relationships & work.

4:2-6 Pray & act to advance the gospel, making the most of every opportunity, conveying the gospel w/ clarity

4:7-18 Closing, encouragements, greetings.

Level 4

1:1-2 Paul, author, credentials, Timothy, helper, Colossae, audience, pronounces blessings.

1:2-14 They pray that Cs live consistently w/ who they are in Christ... to grow in k'ledge of God, His will, walk worthy, bear fruit, rely on His strength, etc

1:24-29 God fixes me positionally in Christ, God wants Christ fixed practically in me

2:8-15 Since Christ has accomplished EVERYTHING to make us complete, pursuing ANYTHING else is foolish, fruitless, shackling.

2:20-23 Since faith in Christ changes alignment from worldly stuff to Him, don't return to that lesser value stuff

3:5-10 Put off the old self, put on the new, the Christ-like self.

3:18-21 Examples of how one should act & speak in the name of the Lord Jesus in family matters.

4:2-6 Pray devotedly, w/ thanks, for Paul to have open door for the word & that he might share the mystery of Christ clearly.

4:7-18 Closing, encouragements, greetings.

1:3-8 Grateful for C's response to gospel, their faith, hope & love, and the fruit it has produced.

1:15-23 Christ is preeminent, the reason we're here & the means for our relationship w/ God.

2:1-7 Pursue Christ since all wisdom & knowledge reside in Him, walking in Him like you received Him.

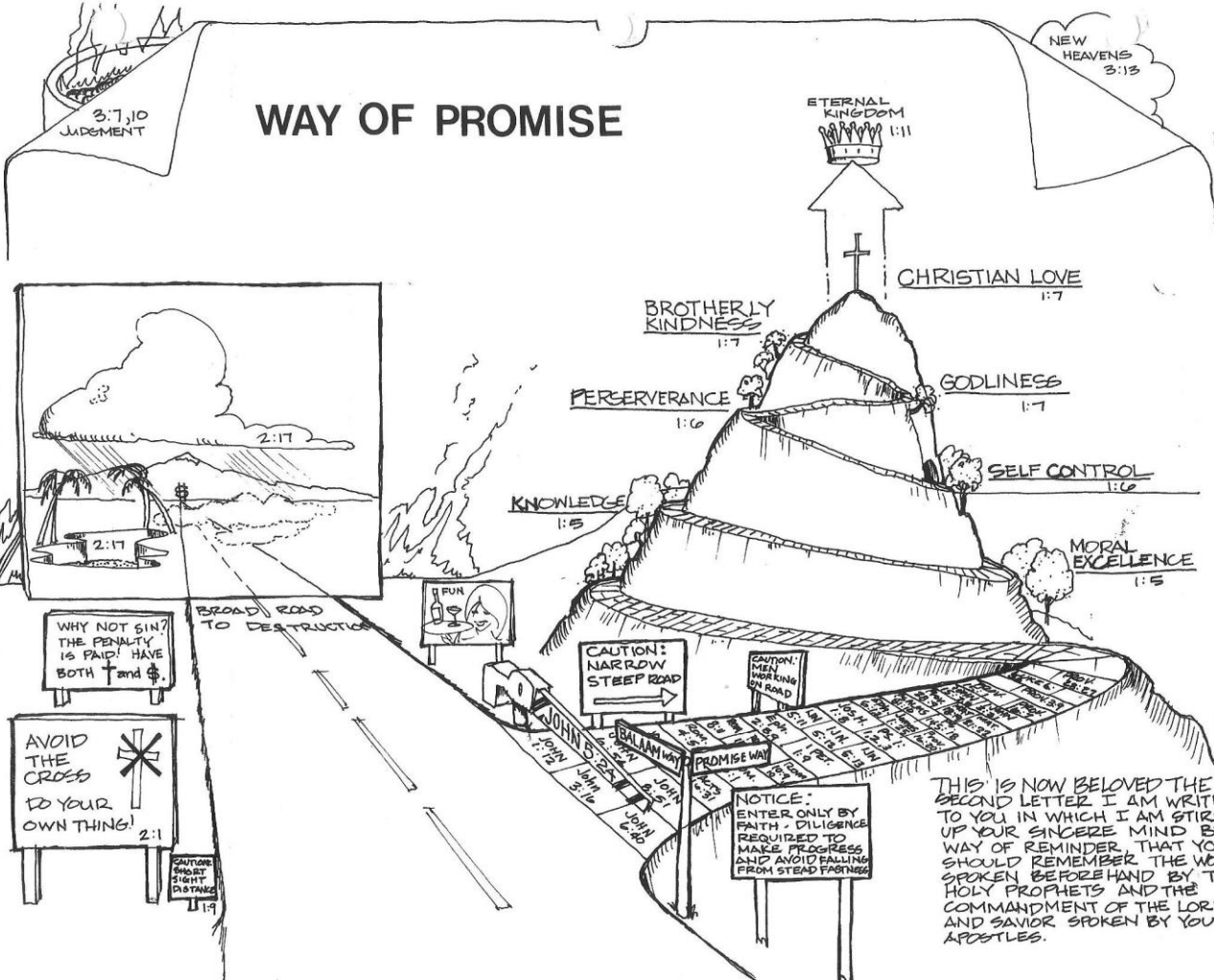
2:16-19 Don't substitute shadow for substance, subordinate things to Him who is over all & made all

3:1-4 Christ, your very life, must, because He is your very life, be your sole [premier, first order, priority] pursuit.

3:13-17 The new self is loving, aligned w/ Jesus' word, ruled by the peace of Christ & characterized by forgiveness, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness & patience—in short, all that is good & clear is to be in the name of the Lord Jesus.

3:22-4:1 Examples of acting in the name of the Lord Jesus in master-slave relations, work (work as to the Lord.

4:5-6 With non-believers, use every opportunity to influence, w/ all speak to influence positively.



3:7,10
JUDGEMENT

NEW HEAVENS
3:13

WAY OF PROMISE

ETERNAL KINGDOM
3:11

CHRISTIAN LOVE
1:7

BROTHERLY KINDNESS
1:7

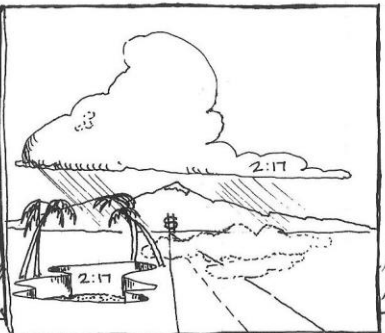
GODLINESS
1:7

PERSEVERANCE
1:6

SELF CONTROL
1:6

KNOWLEDGE
1:5

MORAL EXCELLENCE
1:5



WHY NOT SIN?
THE PENALTY IS PAID! HAVE BOTH \dagger and $\$$.

BROAD ROAD TO DESTRUCTION



CAUTION: NARROW STEEP ROAD

CAUTION: MEN WORKING ON ROAD

AVOID THE CROSS TO YOUR OWN THING!
2:1

CAUTION: SHOOT SIGHT DISTANCE
1:19

BALAM WAY
2:12

JOHN 8:12
JOHN 8:12
JOHN 8:12

PROMISE WAY
NOTICE: ENTER ONLY BY FAITH - DILIGENCE REQUIRED TO MAKE PROGRESS AND AVOID FALLING FROM STEAD FASTNESS

THIS IS NOW BELOVED THE SECOND LETTER I AM WRITING TO YOU IN WHICH I AM STIRRING UP YOUR SINCERE MIND BY WAY OF REMINDER THAT YOU SHOULD REMEMBER THE WORDS SPOKEN BEFORE HAND BY THE HOLY PROPHETS AND THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD AND SAVIOR SPOKEN BY YOUR APOSTLES.

Three Book Recommendations

- *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, Fee & Stuart, Zondervan*
- *Handbook for Personal Bible Study, Klein, NavPress*
- *How to Read a Book, Adler (Available for free in pdf or ebook form)*

One Bible Recommendation

- *International Inductive Study Bible*

Available in NIV, NASB and ESV