

BASICS OF BIBLE STUDY

A SIMPLE GUIDE FOR LEARNING
HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE



SATURATE
RESOURCES

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ALL SCRIPTURE IS BREATHED OUT BY GOD AND
 PROFITABLE FOR TEACHING, FOR REPROOF,
 FOR CORRECTION, AND FOR TRAINING IN
 RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE
 COMPLETE, EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.

2 Timothy 3:16–17

AUTHORITY (GOD-BREATHED)

Our Posture

The Bible is God's inspired Word.

Therefore, our posture is one of being under the Word. What this means is that we submit ourselves to God's Word, and acknowledge it has authority over our lives — for doctrine and life: what we believe and how we live.

It doesn't submit to us—we submit to it.

This means we study and do exegesis, not eisegesis.

Exegesis or Eisegesis?

Exegesis means to draw out, while eisegesis means to draw in.

Exegesis is an attempt to discover the meaning of the text objectively, while eisegesis is importing a subjective meaning into the text.

Exegesis is letting the text speak by doing thorough study of the cultural, textual, historical, and biblical context.

Too often we make the text submit to our preconceived ideas or beliefs. When we do careful exegesis, we submit our ideas and beliefs to the text.

Context is Key

Cultural Context

To understand the purpose and authorial intent of a book or passage of Scripture, you need to understand what's going on in the context of the culture to which the author is writing or addressing.

- What is the time and place of the writer AND the recipients?
- What are prominent themes, stories and practices in the culture?
- What has shaped the history of this culture?
- Who are the shapers and leaders of culture in this context?



- What are the forms, places and practices of worship?
- Who or what is the culture looking to for significance, security and salvation?
- What is presently going on in the context the author is addressing?

Textual Context

Every chapter or verse of the Bible is part of a larger context – a letter, a poem, a historical account, or a book. Proper exegesis requires understanding the text within which the verse or chapter is located.

- What kind of genre is the writing (historical, narrative, law, wisdom, poetry, prophecy, apocalyptic, gospel or letter/epistle)?
- What is the overall purpose of the text?
- What are the general and specific themes?
- When looking at a particular passage within a text, one must ask:
 - How do the other parts of this book inform how to read it?
 - What has been said already?
 - What is going to be said? (Necessitating that the whole text be completely read in order to accurately exegete that one part of the whole.)

Biblical Context

If you want to understand and study the Bible effectively you must read and become familiar with the Bible. The best tool for interpreting the Bible is the Bible itself.

Develop a habit of reading through the Bible regularly; set aside time to do it daily.

Each interpretation of a particular text must be checked and compared with the whole counsel of God's Word.

- Where else is this particular theme, idea, command or doctrine dealt with in God's Word?
- What do the other passages teach about this, and what is the dominant understanding? (Use cross-referencing and Bible study tools.)
- What particular biblical passages, images or metaphors is the author referencing or drawing upon? Why? And what do they mean in each particular instance?
- How does this particular text of the Bible fit within the overall text of Scripture?

Redemptive-Historical Context

According to Jesus in Luke 24, the Old Testament Scriptures are referring to him. The Redemptive-Historical method of studying the Bible demands the Bible be read in a way that stresses the organic unity between the unfolding historical stages of God's redemption in Christ. And, therefore, Scripture is to be read through a Christology lens – seeing how the progression of Scripture points to Christ as the hero of the Biblical narrative.



IT'S ALL PROFITABLE FOR ...

Read 2 Timothy 3:16. Go through each section and prayerfully answer the questions relating to each section.

Teaching

NOTE: Ask God to reveal truth to you through His Spirit.

When studying, ask four questions:

1. What does this tell me about who God is? (Character of God)
2. What has God done? (Work of God)
3. Who are we in light of what God has done? (New Identity)
4. How would we live if we believed this (1-3)? (Commands)

Rebuke

- Where am I not living by faith, believing who God is, . . . trusting in His work and resting in my new identity?
- My behavior will reveal my beliefs.
- Does my behavior show I believe God's Word and want to obey Him?
- If not, what does my behavior reveal I believe about God, His work and my identity?

Correction

- If my behavior reflects my beliefs, how does God's Word correct my ignorance or wrong beliefs?
- What truths didn't I know, and how does that change my view of God, His work and my identity?
- What lies about God had I believed, and how does this text correct that?
- What would my life and behavior look like if I believed and submitted to God's Word?

Training in Righteousness

- Then respond in three ways: repent, believe and obey.
- Righteousness is living the life God rescued and freed us to live.
- What actions and behaviors would I engage in if I believed these truths?
- When and how will I begin to walk out the fruit of repentance through obedience?

