

How to Read and Study Your Bible

Lesson 10 – November 13, 2011

Step 1: What did the text mean to the biblical audience?

- a. Read seriously and observe the text. What does the text say?
- b. Break the passage into manageable parts.
- c. Determine the context of the passage.
 - 1) Historical-Cultural Context
 - a) Biblical author
 - b) Biblical audience
 - c) Other elements: geography, social customs, religion, economy, politics, etc.
 - 2) Literary Context
 - a) Genre, Form
 - b) Surrounding context

Step 2: What does the text mean? What is the biblical principle in this text?

- a. Determine the differences between the biblical audience and us.
- b. Identify the similarities between the situation of the biblical audience and our situation.
- c. Based on the meaning from Step 1, identify the broader biblical principle. It should:
 - 1) Be reflected in the text.
 - 2) Be timeless and not tied to a specific situation.
 - 3) Not be bound to one particular culture.
 - 4) Correspond to the teaching of the rest of Scripture.
 - 5) Be relevant to both the biblical audience and the contemporary audience.
- d. Write out the biblical principle (or principles) in one or two sentences, using present-tense verbs.