

# The Practice of Studying Scripture

## **Introduction**

### The Dual Nature of Scripture

“<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

### The Rationale for Studying Scripture

“Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation” (1 Peter 2:2)

### A Word about Time

## **Principle 1 - Focus on the Bible**

### First-Hand knowledge

<sup>7</sup>The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul;  
The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.  
<sup>8</sup>The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;  
The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.  
<sup>9</sup>The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;  
The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.  
<sup>10</sup>They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;  
Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.  
<sup>11</sup>Moreover, by them Your servant is warned;  
In keeping them there is great reward” (Psalm 19:7-11)

### Other Tools

“These were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11)

### Different Versions

### Study for Your Own Benefit

“The word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12)

## **Principle 2 - Take the Bible Literally, Usually**

### Hermeneutics, Definition

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15)

### Hermeneutics, Examples

“<sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35)

“<sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh” (John 6:48-51)

### Hermeneutics, Importance

“<sup>13</sup>A woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away. <sup>14</sup>For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. <sup>15</sup>Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace” (1 Corinthians 7:13-15)

### Prescriptive or Descriptive

“God said, ‘no, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him’” (Genesis 17:19)

“<sup>44</sup>All those who had believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need” (Acts 2:44-45)

### **Principle 3 – Appreciate the Context**

#### **Narrative Context**

“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13)

“<sup>10</sup>But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity. <sup>11</sup>Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. <sup>12</sup>I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. <sup>14</sup>Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction” (Philippians 4:10-14)

#### **Historical Context**

“<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
<sup>11</sup>Do not cast me away from Your presence  
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me” (Psalm 51:10-11)

“<sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah. <sup>14</sup>Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord terrorized him” (1 Samuel 16:13-14)

#### **Linguistic Context**

“<sup>12</sup>I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; <sup>13</sup>and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. <sup>14</sup>His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. <sup>15</sup>His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. <sup>16</sup>In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength” (Revelation 1:12-16)

“<sup>1</sup>Moreover you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twisted linen and blue and purple and scarlet material; you shall make them with cherubim, the work of a skillful workman. <sup>2</sup>The length of each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; all the curtains shall have the same measurements. <sup>3</sup>Five curtains shall be joined to one another, and the other five curtains shall be joined to one another. <sup>4</sup>You shall make loops of blue on the edge of the outermost curtain in the first set, and likewise you shall make them on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in the second set. <sup>5</sup>You shall make fifty loops in the one curtain, and you shall make fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is in the second set; the loops shall be opposite each other. <sup>6</sup>You shall make fifty clasps of gold, and join the curtains to one another with the clasps so that the tabernacle will be a unit” (Exodus 26:1-6)

#### **Principle 4 - The Value of Thinking**

##### Meditate

“<sup>1</sup>How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,  
Nor stand in the path of sinners,  
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!  
<sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.  
<sup>3</sup>He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,  
Which yields its fruit in its season  
And its leaf does not wither;  
And in whatever he does, he prospers” (Psalm 1:1-3)

##### Memorize

“Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You”  
(Psalm 119:11)