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PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #1 - INTRODUCTION

John 14:23, 24

Illustration: Let's say that I bought all of the materials to make a DIY doghouse. All of the plywood and the boards have been purchased. I even printed off some very easy to follow, step-by-step instructions for you. You have everything that you need to build a nice doghouse. Right?

NO!

What you are missing is TOOLS - you will need a saw, a hammer, nails, measuring tape, a drill, and... potentially several other things.

If you are missing the TOOLS - then you CANNOT build the doghouse!

If you have the TOOLS - then you can COMPLETE the project.

Often times, we tell people to read and study the Bible and we even include how RICH and REWARDING it is to study the Bible, but we fail to provide Christians with the proper TOOLS of Bible study.

What I'd like to do over the next few weeks is to provide you with the TOOLS that, IF YOU USE THEM PROPERLY, you can have an understanding of the Bible which you can BUILD your FAITH upon.

Tonight will be a simple INTRODUCTION to the next few weeks. So you probably won't be blown away with anything earthshaking tonight, but hopefully we can whet your appetite for what is ahead.

Now we read John 14:23, 24

It's not about how much you KNOW the word of God... it's about how much you LOVE the word of God.

- There are too many folks walking around who have a great deal of KNOWLEDGE about the Bible but they don't APPLY IT!

If you LOVE God's words - you will not only seek to KNOW them, but LIVE them!

It's not about how much you get into the word of God... it's about how much the word of God gets into you.

cf. 2 Timothy 2:15

I. THE HOW OF BIBLE STUDY - RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

2 Timothy 2:15 - This is a VERY IMPORTANT passage when it comes to LEARNING the Bible.

We are commanded to STUDY God's word - this is a command for ALL saved people, not just pastors or Bible teachers.

1. The MOTIVATION for Bible study - "to shew thyself approved unto God"

- Contrast with **Acts 2:22**

2. The MISSION of Bible study - "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed"

- God PREPARES you for His work through studying the Bible

3. The METHOD of Bible study - "rightly dividing the word of truth"

- This is a principle in itself that we will tackle down the road in this study

So let me begin by saying that your Bible is an OPEN book and you CAN understand it... with the proper TOOLS!

cf. 2 Corinthians 11:1-3 - the value of SIMPLICITY!

- It is SIMPLE to be SAVED... and God has made understanding the Bible a SIMPLE task when armed with the CORRECT tools.
- The key to UNDERSTANDING is simply BELIEVING every word

II. THE WHAT OF BIBLE STUDY - BELIEF

HOW were you SAVED? What ACTION had to take place on YOUR behalf for you to be SAVED?

- **cf. John 3:36** - it was BELIEVING

cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 - the Bible only WORKS in you, and you only UNDERSTAND it when... you BELIEVE it!

There is NO SECRET or MAGIC FORMULA

Believe God's word and you are well on your way to LEARNING God's word.

Let me give you a warning though. It is NOT POPULAR in the day we live in to be a Bible BELIEVER - and it wasn't popular in Paul's day.

cf. Acts 24:14

- Not only the world, but the RELIGIOUS crowd will call you a HERETIC for BELIEVING God's words.

It's not about how much you KNOW the word of God... it's about how much you LOVE the word of God.

- There are too many folks walking around who have a great deal of KNOWLEDGE about the Bible but they don't APPLY IT!

If you LOVE God's words - you will not only seek to KNOW them, but LIVE them!

It's not about how much you get into the word of God... it's about how much the word of God gets into you.

III. THE WHO OF BIBLE STUDY - JESUS CHRIST & THE HOLY SPIRIT

cf. Luke 24:44, 45

- v. 44 - mention of the WRITTEN WORD
- v. 45 - it is Jesus Christ who OPENS up the UNDERSTANDING of the Scriptures

Who BETTER to teach you the Scriptures than God manifest in the flesh? There is no better teacher... but, Jesus Christ is not here today.

So, what are we to do?

cf. John 14:25, 26

- It is the Holy Spirit WHO teaches the Scriptures to the believer.

cf. John 16:13, 14

The Holy Spirit is to be your:

- GUIDE - He GUIDES you into all truth

As we go through this series on Bible study principles - you will have ZERO understanding if you do not KNOW the Lord Jesus Christ as YOUR Saviour.

If you DO know the Lord Jesus Christ, then He has given you the Holy Spirit to TEACH and GUIDE you as you journey through the Scriptures.

With the Lord's help, I will do my best to give you the TOOLS needed to study the Scriptures - but they will be of no use to you if you:

1. Are not saved
2. Fail to put them to use

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #2 - FINAL AUTHORITY

2 Timothy 3:15-17

God has a _____ in Scripture!

1. FUNCTIONS OF SCRIPTURE

- v. 15 - Even a _____ of the _____ is given by inspiration of God.
- v. 16 - Four primary functions of Scripture
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____ in righteousness
- v. 17 - God's objective in giving us the Scriptures is to thoroughly _____ you to every _____.

2. A WORD ABOUT WORDS

- Psalm 12:6, 7 - God promised to _____ His words
- Proverbs 30:5 - Every word of God is _____
- Matthew 24:35 - God's words shall not _____
- Luke 4:4 - We are to live by every _____ of God

****Our final authority is the King James Bible (KJB). It does not need to be _____, but it does need to be _____ into the hearts and minds of believers.****

3. UNDERSTANDING THE KJB

One of the main objections to the KJB is that it contains words that we do not use today. While we do not necessarily use KJB words in our modern vocabulary, that certainly does not make the KJB unusable. Instead, many of the nuances of the KJB that are criticized actually provide the reader with _____ and _____ when it comes to knowing and understanding what God said.

“-est” & “-eth” endings

- These endings serve to _____ English with the language it was translated from (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic).
 - Example:
 - English: I **love** → you **love** → he/she/it **loves**
 - Spanish: Yo **amo** → tu **amas** → el/ella/usted **ama**
 - KJV: I **love** → thou **lovest** → he/she/it **loveth**
 - Notice how the ENDINGS are different.
 - The “-eth” and “-est” endings help _____ the language gap from the original language to English.
 - The “-eth” and “-est” endings help clarify _____ is doing the action.
 - Example of Distinction: John 3:8
 - Thou → “-est” ending → → → He/she/it → “-eth” ending

“thou” - “thee” - “ye” - “you”

Pronouns beginning with the letter “T” are _____

Pronouns beginning with the letter “Y” are _____

Example: John 3:5-7, 11, 12

Italicized words

The translators of the KJB placed words in italics that were not translated directly from the Hebrew/Greek, Aramaic. Italicized words were _____ for clarity.

Examples: 2 Peter 1:21, 1 John 4:3

“Archaic” words

The KJB set the standard for the English language whereas the modern version of English has _____. That is not God’s fault! Some words have changed meanings (“gay” and “carriages”). As for other “archaic” words (“forward” and “trow not” are just a couple), learn them and expand your _____!

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #3 - CONTEXT

2 Peter 1:20, 21

There are some very important Bible study principles, or _____ that must be followed so that the proper interpretation takes place.

- How would YOU like it if you made a statement for the purpose of communicating a very important truth, yet it was misconstrued by the hearer and the message you intended to be sent was drastically changed when it was communicated to someone else by the original hearer?

Illustration: Dr. Fauci's claim of being taken out of context

God's words are intended to be read in context! Taking Scripture out of context leads to _____ doctrine and _____. Most heresies are truths _____.

cf. 2 Peter 3:15, 16

Anytime you study the Bible, you must ask the question: What is the _____?

I. DEFINING CONTEXT

- Context = the parts of a discourse that _____ a word or passage and can throw light on its meaning
 - Context is the _____ in which a passage occurs.

cf. Isaiah 28:9, 10

- A precept or line cannot be _____. Instead, they must be stacked one upon another so that verses are taken in context.

Taking verses out of context is nothing more than “cherry picking” verses, usually to _____ a certain doctrine that may not even be in the Scriptures!

***The authentic meaning of Scripture is derived from _____
verses in succession.***

II. DISTORTING CONTEXT

Many people do not know where to start reading in the Bible, so they use the “lucky dip” method. They say, “Lord, show me where you want me to read” and randomly open their Bible and start reading wherever the Bible happens to open. This is DANGEROUS!

Taking Scripture out of context can cause a person to:

1. Never be _____ due to false doctrine being taught.
2. Never _____ after being saved due to taking in false doctrine.

Examples of distorting context:

- **cf. John 3:5** - out of context it is used to teach that _____
is essential for salvation
 - Read verses 1-7 for the context
- **cf. Matthew 7:1** - out of context it is used to teach that we are not to _____
 - Read verses 1-5 for the context, also see John 7:24
- **cf. Amos 4:4** - out of context it could be used to _____
 - Read verses 1-4 for the context

III. DISCOVERING CONTEXT

- Every _____, _____, _____ and _____ in the Bible has a specific doctrinal context.

Examples of obvious context:

- **cf. Joel 2:1** - the context is just prior to the _____
- **cf. James 1:1** - context is the _____
- **cf. Matthew 24:3** - the context is just prior to the _____

Conclusion: cf. Ecclesiastes 12:12

Studying the Bible is a _____ with GREAT BENEFITS... but it requires _____!

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #4 - COMPARISON

God's truth (G) vs. man's understanding (M):

___ eternal ___ finite ___ heavenly
___ earthly ___ carnal ___ spiritual

cf. Hosea 12:9, 10

God communicates His truth to man in terms we can understand. By starting with what we _____, and then relating it to the _____.

Two of the most important words in the Bible: _____ and _____

English grammar: **SIMILE** - a literary device that makes a _____ between two things using the words "like" or "as." Similes make it easier for readers to _____ the author's ideas.

cf. Psalm 1:1-3

- The blessed man is LIKE a _____
 - Like trees, we have a _____, _____, _____, and some bear _____.

cf. Psalm 52:2

- The tongue is LIKE a _____

cf. Isaiah 53:6, 7

- We are LIKE _____
- The Lord was brought AS a _____ to the slaughter

cf. Job 34:3

- The ear is to _____ as the mouth is to _____

cf. Proverbs 16:24

- Pleasant words are compared to an _____ as they provide _____ and _____.

cf. Ephesians 5:22-25

- The word “as” gives us a better understanding of _____, and of the Christian’s relationship with _____.

cf. 1 Peter 1:24

- Flesh is compared to _____ and the glory of man as the _____ of the grass.

Now, let’s use “LIKE” and “AS” on a slightly deeper level, _____ certain events in the Bible.

cf. Matthew 24:32-37

- The events preceding Christ’s Second Coming are compared to the days of _____.
 - Genesis 5:22-24 - Enoch is _____
 - During the judgment upon the world (the flood), Noah and his family are preserved - a picture of _____ in the Tribulation.

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #5 – FIRST MENTION

Last week: Learning by COMPARISON

cf. Job 34:3

- The ear is to _____ as the mouth is to _____.
-

This week: The principle of FIRST MENTION

- Remember that every _____ of God is IMPORTANT!

The principle of first mention: The first time subject, person, or word shows up in the Bible, it usually defines a _____. Patterns established then remain _____.

- Another way of stating: “What is true is _____ true.”

cf. Malachi 3:6 & Hebrews 13:8 – Our God is _____ because God’s _____ is consistent!

I. THE FIRST MENTION OF “LOVE”

cf. Genesis 22:2

- The first time any form of the word “love” is mentioned, it is in the context of a _____ love for his _____.
 - **cf. John 3:35** – God the Father loves His _____
 - Remember, the Bible is not about you! It is about _____!
 - **cf. John 3:16** – God’s love for the world was shown by the sacrifice of God’s only begotten _____.
 - **cf. John 15:13** – The _____ love explained.
 - **cf. 1 John 4:9, 10** – Notice the _____ God has established as we stack other verses upon the first one in which love was mentioned.

II. THE FIRST MENTION OF "SERPENT"

cf. Genesis 3

- Verse 1 - The first adjective describing the serpent is _____. This provides us great insight into his strategies.
 - Additionally, we find that the first statement out of his mouth is a _____ with the purpose of casting _____ upon what God said.
- Verse 3 – Notice how Eve _____ to the word of God.
- Verse 4 – The serpent tells a bold faced _____.

cf. Revelation 20:2

- Other names for the serpent are: the _____, the _____, and _____.

****The serpent is consistently associated with _____ and _____.****

cf. John 8:44 – The devil is the father of _____.

III. THE FIRST MENTION OF "BLOOD"

cf. Genesis 4:8-10

- The first time the word "blood" shows up in the Bible, it is connected with _____.

cf. Genesis 9:3-6

- Bloodshed punishable by _____. Again, blood connected with _____.

cf. Leviticus 17:10, 11

- Plainly stated: "For the _____ of the flesh is in the blood... for it is the blood that maketh an _____ for the soul."

cf. 1 John 1:7 – Not only is blood tied to physical life, but to _____ life also.

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #6 - CROSS REFERENCING

1 Corinthians 2:11-14

v. 11 - “the things of a man” → “the _____ of man”
“the things of God” → “the _____ of God”

v. 13 - The Holy Ghost teaches with _____. The teaching method is _____ spiritual things with spiritual.

v. 14 - Spiritual discernment is only possible through the _____.

cf. 2 Peter 1:20, 21

- The Scripture is not to be _____ interpreted.
 - Throw out: “I think it means...”
 - Adopt: “This Scripture sheds light on that Scripture.”
- Since learning the Bible requires _____ (2 Timothy 2:15), God would have us use _____ referencing to put “the pieces of the puzzle” together.
 - The best interpreter of the Bible is _____.

I. CROSS-REFERENCING & DEFINITIONS

- The Bible has its own built-in _____. Terms are defined by comparing one Scripture with another.

Example #1: cf. Luke 14:26, 27

The word “**HATE**” in Luke 14:26 - Does the Lord want me to HATE my family?

- Let’s allow the Bible to define the term.
 - **cf. Matthew 10:37-39** - by cross-referencing, we learn that the word “hate” is defined as: _____

Example #2: cf. Luke 9:2-5

The word “**SCRIP**” - what is it?

- Again, let the Bible define the term.
 - **cf. 1 Samuel 17:40** - a “scrip” is simply a _____

II. CROSS REFERENCING & DETAILS

Sometimes, several references must be connected for the complete story to come together.

Example #1: cf. Exodus 7:11 and 8:7

What were the names of the magicians who withstood Moses?

- We CAN know by cross-referencing - cf. 2 Timothy 3:8
 - The names of the magicians were _____ & _____

Example #2: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are the four _____. These are four accounts of the life of Christ. They are similar, yet different. Only by comparing the four is the complete _____ of Christ revealed.

- What was the superscription above Jesus on the cross?
 - cf. Matthew 27:37 - _____
 - cf. Mark 15:26 - _____
 - cf. Luke 23:38 - _____
 - cf. John 19:19 - _____

Only by comparing the four do you obtain the FULL SUPERScription:

III. CROSS REFERENCING & DOCTRINES

Question: Is Jesus Christ God?

Answer: Allow multiple cross references to answer the question.

- **cf. 1 Timothy 2:5** - “the _____ Christ Jesus”
 - Looking at ONE passage is NOT enough!
- **cf. 1 Timothy 3:16** - “God was _____ in the flesh”
- **cf. Philippians 2:5, 6** - Christ Jesus IS _____ with God.
 - Other references on the DEITY OF CHRIST: John 1:1, 14, 20:28; Romans 8:9; Hebrews 1:8; 1 John 5:20

Question: How long will Jesus Christ reign on Earth when he returns at his Second Coming?

Answer: Allow MULTIPLE VERSE to answer the question.

- cf. Revelation 20:1-7 - the OBVIOUS answer is _____ years!
 - A total of _____ verses reveals the number of years.

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #6 - THE PEOPLE PRINCIPLE

2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Corinthians 10:32, 33

Illustration: Letter of Inheritance

- How much of the Bible is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness? _____
- Are there certain portions of the Bible that I should not read? _____

All of the Bible is written _____ you, but not all of the Bible is written _____ you.

cf. Romans 15:4

- No matter where you are reading in the Bible, there is always something for you to _____.

Illustration: The life of Abraham - **cf. Genesis 12:1-3**

Things God promised to Abraham, NOT the church!

- _____ (v. 1)
- A great _____ (v. 2) and a great _____ (v. 2)
- A _____ to those who blessed Abraham and a _____ to those who cursed Abraham (v. 3)

According to 1 Corinthians 10:32, there are 3 main groups of people that the Bible is written TO:

When reading and studying the Bible, you must take into account to _____ the passage was primarily written. Part of understanding the context is taking into account the primary group of _____ to whom the passage was written.

I. PASSAGES WRITTEN TO JEWS

- Virtually all of the _____ is addressed to the nation of Israel (Jews).
 - Example #1: **cf. Leviticus 1:1-4**
 - You do not need an animal _____ today, but the Jew in the Old Testament most certainly did!

- Example #2: **cf. Numbers 15:1, 2**
 - The Old Testament Jew was promised a certain _____
- This principle goes hand in hand with the principle of context. Always look at the context to determine who is _____ and who is being _____.
- Example #3: **cf. Matthew 24:1-3**
 - The context is the _____ of Christ. Remember that _____ are for the Jew (cf. Exodus 4:29-31 and 1 Cor. 1:22)

Always ask the question: Whose _____ am I reading?

II. PASSAGES WRITTEN TO GENTILES

- When reading the Old Testament, keep in mind that a Gentile is anyone who is NOT of the seed of _____, _____, _____, and the _____ tribes.
 - Example #1: cf. Daniel 2:1-4 - God revealed His truth through a dream to a _____ king (Nebuchadnezzar)
 - Example #2: Jeremiah 46:1, 2 - Jeremiah's prophecy was aimed at the _____.
 - Example #3: cf. Matthew 10:1-6 - Notice the division between _____ and the _____.

III. PASSAGES WRITTEN TO THE CHURCH

- Remember that the church of Jesus Christ _____ in the Old Testament and through most of the gospels.
- **cf. Ephesians 3:1-8** - God gave the apostle _____ specific revelation for the _____ of Jesus Christ. (cf. Rom. 1:1, Gal. 1:1, Eph. 1:1, etc.)

WARNING: Even though specific doctrine for the church of Jesus Christ is found primarily in Paul's letters - you should still read _____ of the Bible!!!

cf. Romans 16:25, 26

- Reading ALL of the Bible will help you _____ God's plan from the beginning to the end! The Old Testament _____ on the New Testament and vice versa.

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #8 - BASIC DIVISIONS

cf. 2 Timothy 2:15

KEY POINT #1: In the verse that commands us to study, we are given the proper method of study. It involves _____ God's word.

KEY POINT #2: Divisions within the Bible reveal _____

- Remember from last week: All of the Bible is _____ you, but not all of the Bible is written _____ you.

I. DIVISIONS OF THE BIBLE

cf. Hebrews 9:13-21 - In verse 15, notice the mention of the _____ testament and the _____ testament.

- The New Testament was not in effect until the _____ of Jesus Christ (v. 15, 16)

cf. John 1:17 - Notice the contrast between the _____ and _____.

cf. 2 Corinthians 3:12-16 - Knowing Jesus Christ makes the Old Testament (the first testament) _____ as it ought to be.

66 IN 1

The Bible consists of _____ books in all. The Old Testament contains _____ books, and the New Testament contains _____ books.

ISAIAH - THE "MINI-BIBLE"

There are _____ chapters in the book of Isaiah. The "scholars" claim there are two authors to the book. They claim that Isaiah wrote the first _____ and then another author (possibly one of his students) wrote the last _____ books.

- By trying to _____ something that **does not exist**, "the scholars" miss out on an awe-inspiring truth. (reminiscent of "the scientists").

II. DIVISIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

cf. Luke 24:44, 45 - Notice the 3 divisions given by Jesus Christ:

**Divisions in parentheses are based on the layout of the Hebrew Bible.*

- The _____ (Genesis - Deuteronomy)
- The _____ (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea - Malachi)
- The _____ (Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles)

BASIC DIVISIONS OF OUR ENGLISH BIBLE:

- The _____ (Genesis - Deuteronomy)
- The books of _____ (Joshua - Esther)
- The books of _____ (Job - Song of Solomon)
- The _____ (Isaiah - Daniel)
- The _____ (Hosea - Malachi)

**REMEMBER: 5 - 12 - 5 - 5 - 12*

Notice how the Old Testament ends with a _____ (cf. Malachi 4:4-6)

**In the Hebrew Bible, the last book is 2 Chronicles. Notice that at the end of the Hebrew Old Testament, there is a command to _____ to _____.*

III. DIVISIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

- _____ (Matthew - John) - these are the accounts of the earthly life of _____
- _____ of the early church (Acts)
- _____ epistles (Romans - Philemon) - 1st word is "_____"
- _____ epistles (Hebrews - Jude)
- _____ (Revelation)

**The book of Acts serves as a _____ between the gospels and the epistles.*

- Understanding the basic divisions of the Bible will help you understand what _____ it is when a passage is written. This is important in determining the correct _____.

REMEMBER: Every heresy is a truth _____, out of proper dispensational context.

- Old Testament principle: _____ in Jehovah God and live by His word, whether revealed by the heavens, His prophets, or His law.
- New Testament principle: _____ on the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and live by the Bible on the basis of Christ's finished work.

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #9

THREE APPLICATIONS OF SCRIPTURE

cf. 2 Timothy 3:16

- All Scripture is _____.
- 1. For _____ - what is RIGHT
- 2. For _____ - what is WRONG
- 3. For _____ - how to GET RIGHT
- 4. For _____ in righteousness - how to STAY RIGHT

God gave us the Bible so we could _____ the truth, but He also gave it so that we might _____ it to our lives.

I. HISTORICAL APPLICATION OF SCRIPTURE

- The Bible is unique among religious books in that it is a book of _____ and its history is 100% _____.
- _____ the Bible to be historically accurate is fundamental to all biblical understanding and application.

cf. 1 Corinthians 10:1-5

- Paul used a _____ reference when he wrote to the Corinthians. They were expected to know that these events took place so that _____ could be drawn for them.

Proofs of the Bible's historical accuracy:

cf. Exodus 3:8

- For many years, archaeologists and historians knew nothing of the Hittites, and critics of the Bible treated the Hittites as proof of the Bible not being historically accurate. However, many archaeological discoveries, beginning in _____, have since proved that the Hittites were a powerful people in the 15th and 16th centuries B.C.

cf. Genesis 7:17-22

- On every continent, fossils of _____ have been found in rock layers which are high above sea level.

cf. John 8:12-14

- It is _____ for the critics to disregard the words of God as being the _____.

II. DOCTRINAL APPLICATION OF SCRIPTURE

- The second level of application is to discover what God is _____ through the historical words and stories recorded in the Bible.

Doctrine IS important!!!

- cf. 1 Timothy 4:13, 16; 5:17
- cf. 2 Timothy 4:1-4
- cf. Titus 1:9

With the doctrinal application of Scripture, we are asking the question:
_____?

Example #1: The “dilemma” of Genesis 1:1

Example #2: The reality of sin and death in Genesis 3

Sometimes, God uses a historical event as a _____ teaching.

- cf. Isaiah 7:14 - The _____ of Christ is a foundational, doctrinal truth in addition to being a key moment in _____.

III. PERSONAL APPLICATION OF SCRIPTURE

Also called _____, inspirational, or _____

- There are _____ personal applications - these are received through underlying spiritual principles that remain _____.

cf. 1 Corinthians 10:1-11

- Paul used a historical event to make a personal application for the Corinthians.
 - He connects the Rock to _____ (v. 4)
 - He warns against _____ (v. 6), _____ (v. 7), _____ (v. 8), _____ (v. 9), and _____ (v. 10)
 - These verses are to be applied on a _____ level.

Practice: Genesis 4:1-8

- Historical:
- Doctrinal:
- Personal:

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #10

LITERAL UNDERSTANDING

Ezekiel 20:45-49

In Ezekiel's day, there were people who thought that his mention of fire was nothing but a _____. These types of people exist today and they are greatly _____.

PRINCIPLE OF LITERAL UNDERSTANDING: Always take a passage **literally** until it is impossible to do so, or if Scripture _____ indicates the passage is symbolic.

- Very few passages in the Bible are _____ - and what symbols exist are always clearly defined in the immediate context or elsewhere in the Bible.

The danger of NOT taking something literally when it SHOULD be taken literally:

- **cf. Luke 16:19-31**
 - Many a "preacher" has told his congregation that this is nothing but a _____. However, the word "parable" does not occur in the entire chapter and Jesus Christ did not use proper _____ in any of His parables.
 - The danger in NOT taking the fire in Luke 16 to be literal is to believe that there is no _____.
 - This is what the Jehovah's Witnesses believe.

GOLDEN RULE OF BIBLE INTERPRETATION:

"When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense;"

-Dr. David L. Cooper

- Symbolism is clearly indicated and defined in the Bible as in the following examples.

SYMBOLISM DEFINED - EXAMPLE #1

cf. Luke 8:4-15

- Notice that we are told in v. 4 that the Lord spake a _____
 - v. 5 - a sower and his seed
 - v. 5 - the way side
 - v. 6 - a rock
 - v. 7 - thorns
 - v. 8 - good ground

The preceding SYMBOLS are DEFINED in verses 19-23

- v. 11 - The seed is _____
- v. 12 - Seed sown by the way side are they that _____, but then the devil comes along and takes the word out of their _____
- v. 13 - Seed sown on the rock are they with _____ and receive the word with _____, but have no root and fall away in time of temptation
- v. 14 - Seed sown among thorns are they which hear, but then the cares, riches, and _____ of this life prevail
- v. 15 - Seed sown on the good ground are they which _____ the word, _____ it, and bring forth _____ with patience.

SYMBOLISM DEFINED - EXAMPLE #2

cf. Revelation 1:12-19

What do the seven golden candlesticks in v. 12 represent?

What do the seven stars in v. 16 represent?

You MUST read verse 20 in order for the SYMBOLS to be defined!

SEVEN STARS = _____

SEVEN GOLDEN CANDLESTICKS = _____

SYMBOLISM DEFINED - EXAMPLE #3

cf. Revelation 17:1-18

What does the WOMAN in verses 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9 represent?

What do the SEVEN HEADS in v. 7 represent? _____

What do the TEN HORNS in v. 7 represent? _____

The DANGER in failing to take the Bible LITERALLY:

- Thinking that the days of Genesis 1 are NOT actual 24-hour days and instead are _____!
- Thinking that the 1000 years in Revelation 20 (mentioned SIX times!) is not really 1000 years or has already been _____!
- Thinking that the 2 witnesses in Revelation 11 are indicative of two _____ and not men!

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #11

WORD PICTURES

John 5:45-47

- Every single _____ in the Bible is there for a _____. God doesn't do anything without a purpose.
- Some Bibles contain pictures of the Holy Land, the ministry of Jesus Christ, or some of the Old Testament stories; but the real pictures are _____ and they can be seen easily by paying attention to the _____ of Scripture.

In John 5:46, the Lord Jesus Christ said that Moses _____ of him, yet NOWHERE in the first five books of the Bible will you find any specific mention of Jesus Christ by _____. Yet Moses DID write of Jesus Christ - in _____, _____, and _____.

- While the Old Testament is a 100% reliable history book, it is also _____ of pictures. Finding Jesus Christ in the Old Testament requires specific attention to the words of Scripture, but what a _____ search it is! Let's look at some examples to whet your appetite.

PICTURE #1 - Abraham & Isaac - Genesis 22

Look at the many pictures of Christ's crucifixion in this passage:

Verse 2

- Abraham _____ his son Isaac - God the Father _____ His Son Jesus Christ (John 3:35, 5:20)
- Abraham was told to offer his son as a _____. This is what God the Father sent Jesus Christ to do, to become the sacrifice for our sins (1 John 2:2).

Verse 3

- Abraham took _____ for the burnt offering (a picture of the cross).

Verse 4

- Notice the mention of the _____ day. Knowing that Christ rose again on the 3rd day (1 Corinthians 15:4) connects this account with the crucifixion.

Verse 5

- Look carefully! Abraham believed that _____ he and Isaac would return! How could this be possible if Isaac was sacrificed? See Hebrews 11:17-19.

Go on down to verse 8 - INCREDIBLE WORDING - "God will provide _____ lamb for a burnt offering" - God certainly DID provide Himself - Jesus Christ (the Lamb of God in John 1:29) being God manifest in the flesh!

PICTURE #2 - The Passover - Exodus 12

Verse 5

- The lamb to be offered had to be without _____ - Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God is “without _____” according to Hebrews 4:15.
- The lamb had to be a _____ - this matches Jesus Christ as well.

Verses 6-7

- The lamb was to be _____.
 - Notice the wording in verse 6 - “the **whole assembly of the congregation of Israel** shall kill it in the evening.”
- The _____ of the lamb was to be placed on the door post.

Verses 8-9

- Notice the pictures abounding in the WORDS!
 - v. 8 - “roast with fire” - a picture of _____
 - v. 9 - “nor sodden at all with water” - Jesus on the cross in John 19:28 said, “I _____.”

Verses 12-13

- It was the _____ of the _____ that saved the Israelites from God’s judgment. It is the blood of Christ that saves and keeps us from God’s wrath according to Romans 5:9.

God intends for us to see these word pictures since Jesus Christ is our _____ according to 1 Corinthians 5:7.

PICTURE #3 - The Serpent on a Pole - Numbers 21:6-9

Verses 8-9

- The Israelites were dying because of the fiery serpents. Moses was told to make a fiery serpent and set it upon a pole. Once an Israelite looked upon the serpent on the pole, he/she _____.

How is this connected with Jesus Christ? See John 3:14-15

- The serpent - a picture of _____ - according to 2 Corinthians 5:21, Jesus Christ _____ sin for us on the cross!
- - Galatians 3:13 says that Christ became a _____ for us.



Old Testament physical truths _____ New Testament spiritual truths thru pictures, or types.

DISCLAIMER: All types eventually break down since they are only pictures. There is only ONE Jesus Christ He alone is PERFECT!

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #12

THE ILLUSTRATIVE TEACHING OF CREATION

Romans 1:20

How is it that the INVISIBLE can be "CLEARLY SEEN"?

- By understanding the things that God _____, His _____.
- God uses His creation to teach us _____ truth.

Psalm 19:1-11

- Verses 1-6 - God's _____
- Verses 7-11 - God's _____

The creation is God's _____. The Bible is God's _____.

I. PATTERNS IN GOD'S CREATION TEACH SPIRITUAL TRUTH

God has stamped His identity all over His creation. Have you ever observed how so many things are divided into _____? This is no accident!

See 1 John 5:7

Illustrations of the _____ are seen all over God's creation!

- _____ is spirit, soul, and body (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:23)
- _____ has 3 states - liquid, solid, gas
- An _____ has 3 parts - proton, neutron, electron
- A _____ has 3 main parts - cell membrane, cytoplasm, nucleus
- An _____ has 3 parts - head, thorax, abdomen
- _____ has 3 aspects - past, present, future
- _____ contains 3 formed elements - erythrocytes, leukocytes, and thrombocytes

II. NON-LIVING THINGS IN GOD'S CREATION TEACH SPIRITUAL TRUTH

_____ and _____ are used by God to teach His truth

- Rainstorm - picture of God's _____ (Genesis 7:4, 19:24)

- Whirlwind - picture of the _____ of God (Job 38:1, 40:6) and the _____ of Jesus Christ (Proverbs 1:27, 10:25; Jeremiah 23:19)
- Snow - the _____ of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 1:18, Revelation 1:14)

Physical _____ of people are wonderful teaching aids (Luke 7:22)

- Infinite _____ - blind, lame, lepers, deaf, dead, poor
- Physical conditions represent _____ conditions.
- Miracles of _____ are always a picture of what God wants to do to those who are spiritually impaired.

III. LIVING THINGS IN GOD'S CREATION TEACH SPIRITUAL TRUTH

Biblical _____ - the plant kingdom teaches us spiritual truth

- Trees illustrate _____ (Psalm 1:1-3, Matthew 7:15-20)
 - Both men and trees have a _____, a _____, and _____. Some trees (like some men) bear _____ while others (like some men) do not.

Biblical _____ - animals teach us spiritual truth

- Birds often illustrate the _____ world
 - Unclean birds are types of _____ (Isaiah 34:11,15)
 - The _____ is a type of the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:10)
- Fish are pictures of _____ men (Matthew 4:19)
 - Fishing and _____ have many parallels.
- Oxen - picture a ministry _____ (1 Corinthians 9:9) working two by two (see Mark 6:7) yoked to a _____. In steep and rough places, they move on their _____.
- The wild ass - picture of a _____ (Job 11:12)
 - Knowing this makes Deuteronomy 22:10 make sense!

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #13

KEY WORDS AND PHRASES

Isaiah 28:9, 10

God's method of teaching:

- PRECEPT upon _____ & LINE upon _____

When you read and study the Scriptures, look for key words and phrases that God uses _____ times. This is done _____ with the intent of God calling your attention to something important.

- Certain words and phrases establish _____ and provide keys for _____ Scripture with Scripture.

I. KEY PHRASE #1: "the third day" or "three days"

- In some way always prophetically points to the _____

cf. Genesis 1:11-13

- The first appearance of _____ on earth took place on the third day

cf. Genesis 22:3, 4 - Isaac, a type of Christ - still _____ on the 3rd day

cf. Joshua 1:10, 11 - a _____ was going to take place within three days

cf. Esther 4:15-5:1 - Esther risked her life and could have died, but... she was still _____ on the third day

II. KEY PHRASE #2: "a woman in travail"

- Is a description of Israel going through the _____

cf. Isaiah 13:6-9, 54:1-11

- This speaks of a terribly _____ time for the nation of Israel. God will try their hearts during the Tribulation.

cf. Micah 4:8-10

- Just like a woman giving birth, Israel will endure a terrible time followed by a time of great _____.

III. **KEY PHRASE #3: “the day of the LORD”**

- Points to the _____ of Jesus Christ but can also include the _____

cf. Isaiah 2:10-12, 13:6-9

- For the enemies of Jesus Christ, the day of the LORD will be a time of great _____.

cf. Jeremiah 46:10

- Here, the day of the LORD is described as a day of _____.

cf. Joel 1:13-15

- The day of the LORD “as a _____ from the Almighty”

Other key phrases for further study:

- **“remnant”** - refers to the believing remnant of Israel in the Tribulation
cf. Isaiah 11:10-16, Ezekiel 14:12-23, Romans 11:1-5, Rev. 12:17
- **“without a cause”** - associated with Jesus Christ, the innocent one who was betrayed
cf. Psalm 35:1-7, 69:4, 109:1-5 (all prophetic)
cf. John 15:25 - the historical context
- **“virgin”** - besides the literal fulfillment in Mary, this often pictures the church as the Bride of Christ
cf. Genesis 24:15-16, 50-67; Proverbs 31:10 (prophetic pictures); 2 Corinthians 11:1-3
- **“virgins”** - in the New Testament, point to the 144,000 Jewish witnesses in the Tribulation
cf. Matthew 25:1-3, Revelation 14:4
***The “s” makes the difference between singular and plural, between the church and Israel
- **“innocent blood”** - connected with Jesus Christ
cf. 1 Samuel 19:1-5 (David as a type of Christ)
cf. Matthew 27:3-4 (historical fulfillment)
cf. Deuteronomy 19:9-13 & 21:1-9 (provide the “out” for the leaders of Israel confronted with the innocent blood of Christ on their hands)

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #14
FULL MENTION PRINCIPLE

1 Corinthians 2:14-16

Verse 16 states that believers “have the mind of Christ” - How is this possible? God’s _____ reveal God’s _____.

FULL MENTION PRINCIPLE: When it comes to issues of vital importance, God has _____ His mind on the issue in His word. Somewhere in the Bible is a definitive statement by God that serves as the _____ to all biblical teaching on a particular subject of great importance.

- The passage may be a single _____, a _____, or series of chapters.

You can observe this principle of God’s full mention by examining the following Scriptures. See if you can match each of the Scriptures with the correct important issue that is addressed.

Exodus 20

John 3:1-13

John 3:16

Romans 9-11

1 Corinthians 12-14

1 Corinthians 15

James 3

1. The new birth - _____
2. The resurrection of Jesus Christ - _____
3. Spiritual gifts - _____
4. God’s love for man - _____
5. The human tongue - _____
6. God’s plan for Israel (past, present, and future) - _____
7. The law - _____

Learn to apply this principle in your Bible study:

- When you come upon a certain theme in a passage of Scripture and you are seeking to understand it more fully, see if you can discover a _____ passage where God most fully declares His mind on the subject.
- Use that passage of “full mention” as the _____ for understanding the different pieces that you find throughout the rest of Scripture.
- In a very practical sense - to learn about the human tongue, begin in James 3 and trace the cross _____ throughout Scripture with the help of a concordance or Bible search engine.

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #15

TYOLOGY

While the Bible is the only 100% accurate book of _____, it is so much MORE than that!

- A type is a foreshadowing, picture, or illustration of another event, person, place item, etc. which comes to _____ that person or thing.
 - If we were naming this phenomena in today's digital world, we would call it an _____. Those little things on your phone, tablet, or computer screen are just _____ of something else.
 - Remember that the best illustrations of New Testament spiritual truths are Old Testament _____ truths.
 - Types are the key to _____ the Old Testament.

cf. Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12

I. THE SWORD IS A TYPE OF

The primary _____ used by the Israelites in conquering the land of Canaan was the sword (see numerous mentions in the book of Joshua).

cf. Judges 4:15, 16; 7:13, 14

- Flawed men became _____ when they wielded the sword.
- Remember that the only OFFENSIVE weapon that God has given the soldier of Jesus Christ is the _____.

cf. Hebrews 11:13

II. EGYPT IS A TYPE OF

cf. Exodus 22:21

- God did not leave the Israelites in Egypt. The book of Exodus is about their _____ from Egypt because God had a BETTER place for them!

cf. Matthew 2:12-15

- While we have a physical presence in this world, we are not to _____ the world (1 John 2:15, 16) since it is only our temporary dwelling place. At the rapture, God calls us _____ of the world!

III. JOSEPH IS A TYPE OF

cf. Genesis 37

- v. 3 - Joseph was the _____ son of Jacob - cf. Matthew 3:17
- v. 4 - Joseph's brothers _____ him - cf. John 15:25
- v. 18 - Joseph's brothers _____ to slay him - cf. Matthew 27:1
- v. 23 - Joseph's brothers _____ him - cf. Matthew 27:28
- v. 28 - Joseph's brothers _____ from his sale - cf. Matt. 26:15

cf. Genesis 40

- v. 2-3 - Two of Pharaoh's officers were in _____ with Joseph - cf. Luke 23:32
- v. 13 - One of Pharaoh's officers was condemned while the other _____ - cf. Luke 23:43
- v. 15 - Joseph did not _____ to be in the dungeon - cf. Heb. 4:15

Ultimately, Joseph came out of prison (type of the resurrection of Jesus Christ) and ascended to rulership in the land of Egypt (type of the reign of Jesus Christ at the Second Coming).

DISCLAIMER: All types eventually _____ because they are only TYPES and not the real thing! Nevertheless, types are outstanding illustrative tools.

For more, see the following handouts:

- 21 Major Types of Christ
- 18 Major Types of Antichrist
- Major Types (Miscellaneous)

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #16

NUMEROLOGY - PART 1

Genesis 1:1-5, 31; 2:1-3

Luke 12:4-7

Numbers are important to God! Just as every word of God is measured, His _____ is no less thoughtful.

- When God uses numbers in the Bible, you can usually observe He has a very _____ for those numbers.
- Be careful! Just as there is truth in the old adage telling us statistics can be deceiving, don't get too carried away with numbers in the Bible! Just learn to _____ their use and be _____ to what they might indicate or cross references they might suggest.
- While God has a purpose in every word He speaks and in every number He uses, don't force something that does not naturally _____ in the context or cannot be clearly seen from comparing Scripture with Scripture.

ONE - _____

cf. **Genesis 2:24** - Adam and Eve united _____

cf. **Genesis 11:1-7** - the unity of man is most often _____ God

cf. **Deuteronomy 6:4** (John 10:30, 1 John 5:7) - the _____ united

TWO - _____

First mention - cf. **Genesis 1:16-18** - two great lights to _____

cf. **Genesis 2:22** (2-2-2) - _____ divided into two (man and woman)

cf. **Amos 3:3** - "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" - two not in _____ are divided

The major division of the Bible is _____ and _____ - TWO

At the **Second** Coming of Christ, the _____ splits in two (cf. **Zechariah 14:4**)

THREE - God's _____, _____, and _____

Remember the connection between THREE and the power of Christ's _____ on the third day.

God is the great _____ in _____ - not three gods but God in three persons (cf. 1 John 5:7)

cf. Genesis 1:26 - God made man in His own likeness and _____ (spirit, soul, and body) - cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:23)

Consider the illustration principle of _____ we have already learned. There are numerous manifestations of this truth in God's creation (cf. Romans 1:20)

FOUR - ? - associated with the _____

cf. Genesis 1:19 - the _____ creation of the earth was finished on the 4th day

cf. 1 Chronicles 29:2 - God's earthly dwelling had four primary materials: _____, _____, _____, and _____

The earthly life of Jesus Christ is told in four _____

cf. Revelation 7:1 - "four _____ of the earth" & "four _____"

cf. Revelation 20:8 - "four _____ of the earth"

- Four cardinal _____ - north, south, east, west

FIVE - associated with _____

cf. Genesis 5:5 - first mention of someone _____

cf. Acts 5:5 - the death of _____ (5th book of the N.T., 5th chapter)

Instances of men dying by being smote under the fifth _____

(cf. 2 Samuel 2:23, 3:27, 4:6, 20:10)

David chose five smooth _____ to kill Goliath (cf. 1 Samuel 17:40)

Jesus Christ had five _____ on the cross

SIX - the number of _____

cf. Genesis 1:24-31 - man is _____ on the sixth day

cf. Exodus 20:9 - man is to _____ six days a week

cf. Revelation 13:18 - "the number of the beast" is "the number of a man" and it is _____

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #17

NUMEROLOGY - PART 2

Numbers 1:1-3, 20-25

- In dealing with numbers, where a particular number occurs 8-9 times out of 10 to deal with one _____, you can be certain that the subject is represented by that particular number.

SEVEN - _____

cf. **Genesis 2:2** - God is _____ when He reaches the 7th day

cf. **Leviticus 23:39-42** - notices the SEVENS connected with the feast of tabernacles - 7th _____ (v. 39), 7 _____ (v. 40)

cf. **Leviticus 25:8-10** - notice SEVEN _____ of years ($7 \times 7 = 49$)

- The completing book of the Bible - Revelation - is filled with SEVENS! There are SEVEN _____, candlesticks _____, seals, horns of the Lamb, _____, trumpets, _____, heads of the dragon, etc.
- The _____ scale has SEVEN notes.
- In the book of Daniel (ch. 9), God divides the history of Israel into periods of 490 years = _____ x _____
- There are 7 openings in your _____ and your cells replace themselves every 7 _____.

EIGHT - _____

cf. **Mark 16:9** - Jesus _____ on the first day of the week, which is the eighth day following the seventh, Saturday, the Sabbath

cf. **1 Peter 3:20** - it was eight _____ who came forth from the ark to make a new beginning on earth after the Flood (Noah is told to go forth from the ark in Genesis chapter _____!)

cf. **2 Peter 2:5** - Noah is called the 8th _____

cf. **Philippians 3:5** - Every Hebrew male was to be circumcised on the 8th _____ (cf. **Genesis 17:12**)

NINE - _____

cf. **Galatians 5:22, 23** - count the fruit of the _____

- Notice the book - Galatians is the 9th _____ of the New Testament
- The listing of the fruit of the Spirit begins in Galatians 5:22
 - $5 + 2 + 2 =$ _____

cf. **Genesis 9:1** - God tells Noah to be _____ and _____

cf. John 15 - the New Testament chapter on spiritual fruit-bearing - the word _____ appears in some form 9 times!

v. 4 - **3x** → v. 5 - **1x** → v. 7 - **2x** → v. 10 - **2x** → v. 34 - **1x**

Nine is the gestation period for women - nine _____ to produce fruit

TEN - _____

Noah, the father of all nations, is the tenth from _____

The first Gentile kingdom is established by _____ in **Genesis 10:10**

The first Gentile convert in the book of Acts is _____ in **Acts 10**

In **John 10**, Jesus speaks of his “_____ sheep” (see v. 16)

Romans 10:9, 10 is the greatest _____ passage in the Bible!

TWELVE - _____

Jacob, or “Israel” as God renamed him, had 12 _____ which became the 12 tribes of Israel

cf. Matthew 19:28 - Jesus appointed the 12 and prophesied they would one day sit on 12 _____ to judge the 12 _____ of Israel

cf. Genesis 12:1-3 - Abram, the _____ (Gen. 14:13) called OUT

The heavenly Jerusalem (**cf. Revelation 21:10-12**) has 12 _____ and at the gates 12 _____, and there are 12 _____ written.

THIRTEEN - _____

cf. Genesis 14:4 - the _____ is associated with rebellion

cf. Genesis 13:13 - Count the words! This is also the 1st mention of the word “_____”

cf. Genesis 17:25 - Ishmael was 13 years old when he was circumcised; Paul even used Ishmael as a picture of the rebellion of the _____ (cf. Gal. 4:29)

cf. Proverbs 13:13a - the ultimate rebellion is to _____ God’s word

cf. Revelation 17:5 - notice that 13 words are in _____

FORTY - _____ or _____

cf. Genesis 7:4 - the Flood was 40 _____ and 40 _____

cf. Numbers 13:25 - the 12 spies spent 40 _____ searching the land of Canaan

cf. Numbers 14:33 - the Israelites _____ 40 years in the wilderness

Three men in the Bible _____ 40 days

- _____ (**cf. Exodus 34:28**), _____ (**cf. 1 Kings 19:8**), and _____ (**Matthew 4:2**)

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #18

PRINCIPLE OF APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS

Isaiah 29:9-14

There are no contradictions in the Bible, only “_____ contradictions.”

- The student of the Bible must exercise _____ in what God said, believing that the word of God is divinely inspired and without _____.
- To those who believe, God will confirm His truth by demonstrating why there are no genuine contradictions in the Bible that cannot be _____ by the eye of faith, only “apparent contradictions.”

“Apparent contradictions” serve two purposes:

1. To give the skeptic a _____ to believe.
 - **cf. Ezekiel 14:1-11, 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12**
2. To _____ hidden truth to the serious Bible student
 - **cf. Matthew 13:10-23**

“APPARENT CONTRADICTION” EXAMPLE #1 - cf. Matthew 27:9, 10

- Matthew tells us these words were _____ by Jeremiah, yet they are only found in Zechariah 11:12.

Is Matthew telling us something that is not true?

- Remember the importance of EVERY WORD of Scripture! Notice in Matthew 27:9, it does NOT say that Jeremiah “wrote” these words, it says they were “_____” by him.
 - This provides a SIMPLE solution: Zechariah _____ the words that were spoken by Jeremiah. That is how God chose to record them for us.
 - The Jews had an extensive _____ tradition passed down through the generations of Israel. Zechariah obviously had these words of Jeremiah when he wrote his prophecy under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

APPARENT CONTRADICTION #2 - cf. Genesis 22:1, James 1:13

- James says that God does not tempt men, but Genesis says that God tempted Abraham.

See how the skeptics are bent on making a liar out of God!

How can this “apparent contradiction” be resolved?

- Once again, remember the importance of EVERY WORD of Scripture! Also remember that the Bible will _____ terms for us. Keep in mind that a single word can have more than one definition.
 - **cf. James 1:2, 3** - Here, “temptation” is defined as a _____ of your faith. Notice there is no mention of being tempted to _____ in the context. It is the skeptic who wants the passage to say that.
 - **cf. Hebrews 11:17** - This passage sheds light on the Genesis passage, indicating that Abraham’s temptation was a _____ given to him by God.

CONCLUSION: God does not tempt a man to sin, but God will allow a man to be tempted in the sense of enduring a _____ of his _____.

APPARENT CONTRADICTION #3 - cf. Exodus 20:12, Luke 14:26

- The skeptic sees a contradiction since Exodus commands children to _____ their parents while Luke says that they are to be _____. So, should children have honor or hatred for their parents?

By now, you probably know how to answer! Remember that God defines the terms and definitions are NOT always what we think.

The word “hate” has more than one definition in the King James Bible:

- **cf. Genesis 27:41** - here, hate means to _____
- **cf. Genesis 29:30, 31** - here, hate means to _____

In Luke 14:26, the Lord seeks followers who love him MORE than they love _____.

The main issue is to have a _____ when approaching the Bible. Every “apparent contradiction” has a _____, even though we may not discover it in the time we desire.

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #19

BIBLE STUDY PERILS TO AVOID

Matthew 18:15-17

2 Corinthians 13:1

There are some perils to avoid when studying your Bible! Keep these in mind when reading and study time as following these principles will keep you away from _____ doctrine!

I. NEVER BASE A DOCTRINE ON A SINGLE VERSE OR PASSAGE

- Our starting passages stated that every word should be established in the mouth of _____ or _____ witnesses. One witness is _____, therefore one verse to support a doctrine is _____ either!
- You _____ yourself from bad teaching as you understand and apply this truth.

Example #1: “baptized for the dead” in **1 Corinthians 15:29**

Mormon doctrine (NOT Bible doctrine!): “*Ceremonial baptisms occur when a member brings an ancestor’s name to a temple. Mormons believe the ritual allows deceased people a way to the afterlife if they choose to accept it.*”

- Mormons will also cite **John 3:1-5** as a passage that supports those who are “baptized for the dead” - but this is a clear case of taking Scripture out of _____.

Example #2: speaking in “the tongues... of angels” in **1 Corinthians 13:1**

Charismatic doctrine (NOT Bible doctrine!): Speaking in an “angelic tongue” when one prays is a display of “the gift of tongues.”

- Make sure to read the verses that follow so that proper _____ is determined! If you, like Paul, have an angelic language, have you also given your body to be burned?!

II. NEVER VIOLATE A CLEAR PASSAGE WHEN TRYING TO UNDERSTAND AN OBSCURE PASSAGE

cf. **2 Peter 3:15,16** - There ARE obscure passages in the Bible. Some passages are clearly _____.

- cf. **Daniel 12:4** - There are certain portions of Scripture that are _____ until the time when God is ready to reveal their meaning
- cf. **2 Corinthians 12:1-4** - Is this Paul, or someone else?

Whatever the passage means, it will probably be _____ rather than more complex, _____ than more obscure, and _____ rather than mysterious.

When reading and studying the Bible, be sure to focus on what you _____ understand rather than what you cannot understand!

III. NEVER BASE A DOCTRINE ON A QUESTION

- Questions are to interrogate, not to _____. Many strange and heretical doctrines are based in passages that are questions rather than _____ teachings of God's word.

The passage we examined in 1 Corinthians 15:29 concerning those "baptized for the dead" contains TWO questions!

cf. **James 2:20** - Uh oh! Does this mean that works must accompany faith for a person to be saved?! No! Notice that this verse is a question and therefore will not be the _____ for something as significant as teaching that salvation is grace plus works. Applying the principle of context, **James 2:21-24** makes the passage clearer.

Another example is found in **Romans 9:13-24** where many extremist views of _____ are based on a series of questions.

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #20
THE PRINCIPLE OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY

cf. Genesis 2:16, 17; 3:1-6

- At issue is who _____ the knowledge. God never intended for Adam and Eve to be in _____. He wanted them to have that knowledge through their knowledge of _____.

I. BE A LEARNER

cf. John 16:12 - Learning the Bible is a _____ process. Sometimes, you will not understand passages of the Bible because you do not have the necessary spiritual _____.

- When you come to a passage you don't understand, you must never violate the rules of Bible study. If you still don't understand, it may be because you are not mature enough to understand, or that God is not yet _____ to reveal it to you.

cf. Proverbs 2:1-5

- The goal of Bible study is not God's knowledge, but knowledge _____. Set your heart on knowing _____ rather than just knowing the _____ of the Bible.

cf. 1 Corinthians 8:1 - Knowledge alone _____

cf. Colossians 1:10 - Our goal is to increase in the knowledge _____ God, not God's knowledge. Don't be frustrated by what you don't know. Instead, simply do what you already know to _____ and choose not to worry about what you do not understand.

II. BE SUBMISSIVE

cf. Romans 8:6-7 - The _____ mind is against God's word, but the _____ mind is submissive to God's word.

cf. James 4:7 - Submitting to God involves being submissive to His _____. Never make the Bible line up with what you believe. Always line up your life to _____ what the Bible says.

III. BE WISE

cf. Romans 11:33, 34

cf. Isaiah 55:8, 9

- You will never completely _____ God. If you could, then you would be God's equal!

"If I understand all of the Bible, it would only prove that whoever wrote it is no smarter than I am." - Sam Jones

cf. 1 Corinthians 2:16 - You have the _____ of Christ. The Bible is the Book of God's _____, said to be His mind.

cf. Philippians 2:5 - God desires that the mind of Christ be _____ us. You cannot be Christ-like unless you know what _____. Reading, studying, and meditating on God's word as how this occurs.

You don't need to worry about what you don't understand as long as God is in charge of your life, since He understands

_____.