

# How to Study the Bible

From: the book *“How to Study the Bible”*

By Robert M. West , 2007

# How to Study the Bible

From: the book "How to Study the Bible"

By Robert M. West , 2007

## Studying with a Purpose

*Top Ten Reasons to Study the Bible*

1. To settle the issue of our own salvation [John 5: 37-40](#)  
[2 Timothy 3:15](#)
2. To grow spiritually [1 Pet 2:2](#)
3. To receive personal blessing and encouragement [Rom 15:4](#)
4. To receive personal guidance [Psalms 119:105](#)
5. To defend ourselves against the devil [Eph 6 & Matt 4: 1-10](#)

6. To effectively teach God's truth to the next generation [Deut 6:4-9](#)
7. To be able to counsel others [Col 3:16](#)
8. To be ready to speak with unbelievers about Christ [1 Pet 3:15](#)
9. To verify that the teaching of others is the truth of God [Acts 17:11](#)
10. To present ourselves approved to God  
[2 Tim 2:15](#)

# Interpretation

## 2 Tim 2:15

Poor interpretation comes from preconceived ideas, poor theology, being too hasty to reach a conclusion and ignoring principles of interpretation.

## **One Interpretation, Many Applications**

- **Isaiah 54:1 and Galatians 4:27** (Bereans) Acts 17

# Inductive Bible Study

## Three Components

1. Observation- What does it say?
2. Interpretation- What does it mean?
3. Application- How does it apply to my life?

# Six Principles of Interpretation

1. The literal principle
2. Historical principle
3. Contextual principle
4. Compatibility principle
5. Grammatical principle
6. Christological principle

# The Literal Principle

- The literal principle means interpreting the Bible with the normal meaning of the words while recognizing figures of speech like symbolism, allegory, and metaphor.
- See Psalm 91:4

# The Historical Principle

- The Bible must be understood in its historical setting before it can be fully understood in our contemporary setting.



# “Gird up your Loins”

- This is an expression similar to our English saying, "roll up your sleeves." It comes from the ancients who wore robes, but needed to pull them above their knees and tuck them in their belt (girdle) to have freedom of movement. Thus "gird up your loins" mean to pull up your robe and tuck it into your belt for action.
- That is why 1 Peter 1:13 says in the King James Version, "Gird up the loins of your mind..." and in New International Version the same verse says, "Therefore, prepare your minds for action..."