

Bible Interpretation Study Guide

The Process of Biblical Interpretation

Observation → Interpretation → Application

In order to accurately understand the Bible, all study must be subjected to the process of Biblical interpretation (2 Tim. 2:15). The majority of one's time should be spent in observing the passage's information. When one has thoroughly observed the passage, they will be ready to interpret the information. The stage of interpretation is the work of determining a passage's meaning. The more thorough and impartial one's observation of a passage is, the more accurate their interpretation will be. Having interpreted the passage correctly, the meaning of the passage will indicate to the individual how the passage affects them. There may be several ways in which it can be applied, and it will be important to practice these in one's everyday life. Below are fourteen questions which provide direction for the process of Biblical interpretation.

1. Who is the author?
2. Who are the recipients?
3. What is the historical and cultural background?
4. What is the outline and structure of the passage?
5. Are there any significant or repeated words?
6. Are there any unusual words that call for more exploration?
7. How does this passage fit into the surrounding paragraph, chapter, and book?
8. What purpose does this passage serve to the overall purpose of the book?
9. What is the main point?
10. How would the original audience have been affected by this passage?
11. How does this passage fit into the overall program of the Bible?
12. How does this passage reveal Christ as Savior (if it does)?
13. How does God want this passage to affect and function in my life?
14. What kind of response does this passage call for?