

# How To Study The Bible

## THE BASIC RULES OF BIBLE STUDY

### II Timothy 2:15

#### I. WHY ARE THERE "RULES" OF BIBLE STUDY?

- Defined: A principle, a standard; to govern or control

##### A. Rules keep us from coming to \_\_\_\_\_ interpretations.

- **2 Peter 1:20** Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

##### B. The Bible does not have a different meaning, application or standard for each person.

##### C. The Bible says, it means, it is to be applied, and obeyed by everyone the \_\_\_\_\_.

##### D. The rules weren't invented, but \_\_\_\_\_!

- To know well or master something, one must **strive lawfully**. (**2 Tim 2:5**) We are endeavoring to learn to strive LAWFULLY.
- **Ex:** athletics, government, medicine, work, etc... all have rules that must be strictly followed to avoid loss, failure or disaster.
- Because the Bible is a stand-alone work of God - it alone **DEFINES** itself, and it alone **DETERMINES** how it is to be understood. It doesn't just **CONTAIN** truth, it **IS** truth - John 17:17

#### II. THE RULES...

##### A. The Principle of \_\_\_\_\_ - Before we ask what a verse "means", we need to determine the **CONTEXT**

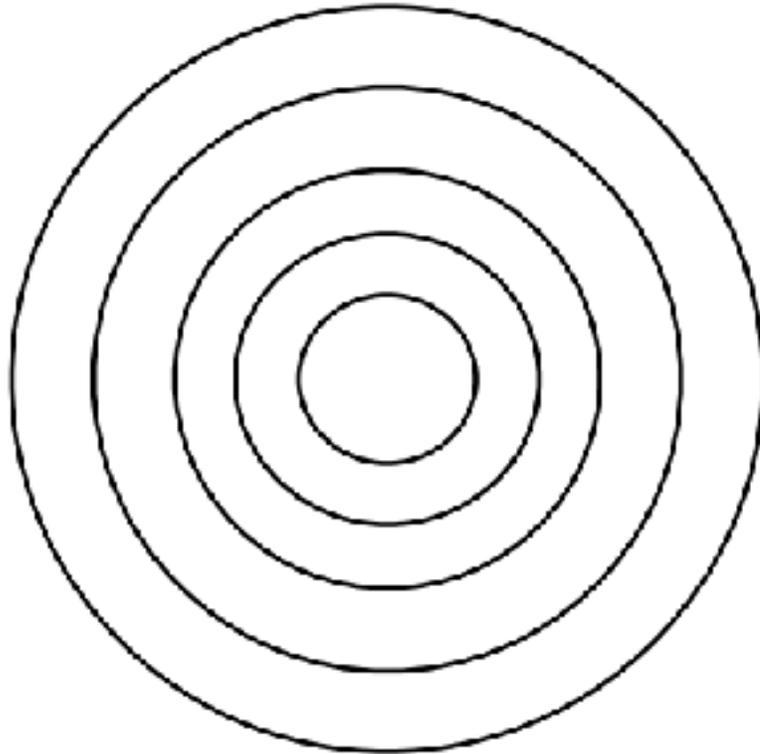
- Def.: "Context" defined: the truth of a passage; the surrounding facts; the composition of a discourse.
- 2 Tim 2:15
- **2 Peter 3:15-16**
  - Peter refers to Paul's writings as "scripture", even before the NT is completed. To "wrest" is to "twist" or take out of context. Peter warns that leads to "their own destruction"
  - No one likes to be taken "out of context"...especially God!

##### 1. There are various \_\_\_\_\_ or parts to the Bible.

- The individual \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible (66)
- The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Testament
- The \_\_\_\_\_ (before/after fall, before/after flood, law/grace, etc.)...more on these later.
- The different \_\_\_\_\_ groups (more on this later)

## 2. Every book, chapter and verse has a specific doctrinal context

- Bible, Book, Chapter, Passage, Verse



## 3. Key Questions you should ALWAYS ask yourself when studying a passage:

- What is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the BIBLE?
  - More on this later
- Where does the \_\_\_\_\_ fit in relationship to the rest of the Bible?
  - Is it ending a section? Deuteronomy marks the end of the Torah. Joshua is the beginning of the historical books. That's important to know. Joshua is a book about victory. It's the first of the historical books and describes how they enter Canaan! What does that mean? They didn't start out in defeat, they started out in Victory. You can start out victoriously. You can live victoriously the key is obedience to God's word.
- Where does the \_\_\_\_\_ fit in relationship to the rest of the book and God's purpose for that book?
  - Ask yourself what is the theme of this book?
  - How does this chapter relate to the theme of this book?

- Where does the \_\_\_\_\_ fit in relationship to the context of the chapter?
- **KEY EXAMPLE: Acts 2:38**
  - **BIBLE** - Why is this Book in the Bible?
    - What's the book titled? "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_."
    - It is NOT a \_\_\_\_\_ STATEMENT of CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_!
    - It is an \_\_\_\_\_ ACCOUNT of the "ACTS of the APOSTLES."
  - **BOOK** - What is the real TEACHING or PURPOSE of this Book?
    - To help make KEY \_\_\_\_\_ in the unfolding of God's plan.
    - **Seven Key TRANSITIONS in the Book of Acts:**
      1. From the Four \_\_\_\_\_ to ROMANS.
      2. From an \_\_\_\_\_ TESTAMENT Structure to a \_\_\_\_\_ TESTAMENT Structure.
      3. From God working primarily with the JEWs to primarily working with the \_\_\_\_\_.
      4. From God's base of operations being in JERUSALEM to His base in \_\_\_\_\_.
      5. From God working through the NATION OF \_\_\_\_\_ to working through the CHURCH.
      6. From the ministry of PETER (chpt.1-12) to the ministry of \_\_\_\_\_ (ch.13-28).
      7. From a KINGDOM of \_\_\_\_\_ message to a KINGDOM of \_\_\_\_\_ message.
  - **CHAPTER** - What is the CONTEXT of the CHAPTER?
    - It is the DAY of \_\_\_\_\_
    - PETER is preaching.
    - Notice his \_\_\_\_\_:
    - Acts. 2:5- JEWs
    - Acts 2:14- DWELL AT JERUSALEM
    - Acts 2:22- MEN OF ISRAEL
    - Acts 2:36- HOUSE OF ISRAEL
  - **PASSAGE** - What is the QUESTION being asked in verse 37?
    - It is NOT the same question being asked in ACTS 16:30 (What must I do to be saved?)!
    - The question is, "What do WE (the NATION of ISRAEL ) do, now that we have CRUCIFIED our MESSIAH?"

- **VERSE** - What does the verse (Acts 2:38) actually teach in its CONTEXT?
  - They are asking what they (the first century Jews that crucified the Messiah do) do to be remitted of their sins (one of which was literally crucifying the Lord Jesus Christ) and be saved. Peter's answer outlines the plan of salvation for the first Century Jews that crucified the Messiah.
  
- **KEY EXAMPLE: Gal. 5:4**
  - **BIBLE** - Why is this BOOK in the Bible?
    - To teach the fact that \_\_\_\_\_ are FREE from the LAW. (Judaism)
    - Acts 15:1
    - Galatians 2:21
  
  - **BOOK** - What is the real TEACHING or PURPOSE of this BOOK?
    - It is NOT a Book to teach us HOW to be SAVED.
    - It IS a Book to teach SAVED people HOW to be \_\_\_\_\_.
  
  - **CHAPTER** - What is the CONTEXT of the CHAPTER?
    - It is to teach us to "\_\_\_\_\_!" (5:16, 25)
    - Paul understood that there is a PRIORITY that must be set into action before you can "WALK," and that is, you must first learn to "\_\_\_\_\_!"
    - The PROBLEM the Galatians had was that they could do NEITHER (walk or stand), because they had "FALLEN."
  
  - **PASSAGE** - What is Paul's SOLUTION to their "FALLEN" state?
    - The SOLUTION was not for them to "Get SAVED, but to "GET UP!" ("STAND!")
  
  - **VERSE** - What does the VERSE (Galatians 5:4) actually teach in its CONTEXT?
    - NOT...that through the \_\_\_\_\_ of your life, you FALL out of God's GRACE...BUT...that through your attempts to do RIGHTEOUSNESS by the LAW, you have FALLEN from the very thing you trusted to make you RIGHTEOUS - GRACE!

## **Examples of the importance of context:**

- **James:**
  - James 1:1- James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.
  - James writes to an audience that will understand his message with a Jewish historical reference point.
- **Hebrews:**
  - Hebrews is a book in the New Testament that is written to the Hebrews! (Hebrews and James are 2 books that people often go to to try to show that you can lose your salvation.)
- **Peter:**
  - 1 Peter 1:1- Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,
  - Peter is writing to the Jews that were scattered abroad – like in Acts 8.
- **Obadiah:**
  - Obadiah 1:1- The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning Edom;
  - One of 12 minor prophets – think it would deal with Israel or Judah **BUT** Obadiah is an Old Testament book written to **Gentiles** (Edomites)

## **Overview of the New Testament, Arranged by Context:**

- **The Gospels**- The biography of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - The events that take place during the gospels—until the death of Jesus Christ—are really still under an Old Testament context (Mosaic law)
  - A last will and testament isn't in effect until the person dies...
  - **Hebrews 9:14-17**
  - Think of the Four to Gospels as a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - If I am on a bridge going from City A to City B. As long as I am on the bridge I'm not in either city. Now we do take teachings from the Gospels but, all teachings taken from the Gospels are found in Romans through Philemon.
- **Acts**- The early church and the transition from law to grace, old to new testament, Peter to Paul, KOH to KOG
- **Paul's Epistles**
  - **Romans**- The doctrinal foundation of our new testament faith.
  - **1 Corinthians-Philemon**- Deals with the application of new testament faith.
- **General/Hebrew Epistles**
  - **Hebrews-Jude**- Written from a Jewish perspective to people with a Jewish background.
- **Revelation**- the last days, the Day of the Lord, and the transition into the new heavens and new earth.

## **Even the ORDER of the books in your Old Testament is PROPHETIC...**

- **1 & 2 Kings** - Tells of the sins of Israel, the destruction of the temple, and Jews being dispersed.
- **1 & 2 Chronicles** - The stories of the kings are given the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. (It is interesting to note that these major events have happened twice in history—once in the days of Nebuchadnezzar by Babylon, and again in 70 AD by the Roman emperor Titus.)
  - 2 Chronicles is arranged as the last book in the Jewish Bible (our OT).
  - It ends with the command for the Jews to GO UP to Jerusalem.
  - That's what they are doing today...
  - **Malachi** (the last book of our OT) ends with the promise of the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus Christ – the **SUN** of righteousness will rise...
- **Ezra** - Cyrus, a pagan, Gentile king, orders the return of the Jews and the rebuilding of the temple.
  - (Similarly, the Gentile king of England in 1917 gave permission for the Jews to return to their homeland through the Balfour Declaration after World War I.)
- **Nehemiah** - The Jews return to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem—setting their physical boundary.
  - (In 1948 Israel officially becomes a nation and their physical boundaries are set.)
- **Esther** - A Gentile queen is replaced by a Jewish queen during a wedding feast that lasts 7 days. (Picturing the rapture of the church, the Gentile bride of Christ, and the seven year tribulation when God begins working through the Jewish people once again.)
- **Job** - “One persecuted” in the land of Uz (Edom, Petra – the same place of the remnant of Israel during the Tribulation).
  - Job's trials last 7 days – just as the Tribulation lasts 7 years. Job has 42 chapters and the Great Tribulation lasts 42 months.
- **Psalms** - King David on the throne – representing the millennial reign of the Son of David, the Lord Jesus Christ.