

I Intro

1. Why is it important to interpret the Bible?
2. Why is it important to interpret the Bible correctly?
3. How can we interpret the Bible correctly?

II Why Is It Important To Interpret The Bible?

John 5:39, *"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me."*

Interpreting the Bible allows us to know Jesus on a profound level

2 Timothy 3:16-17, *"16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*

The Bible is the Word of God and is instrumental in being equipped for every good work
Ephesians 2:10 tells us, *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

Hebrews 4:12, *"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*

When we interpret the Bible, we end up learning more about ourselves

III Why Is It Important To Interpret The Bible Correctly?

2 Corinthians 4:2, *"But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God."*

Matthew 23:15, *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves."*

IV Lenses

1. The Bible was written in a specific time and culture to a specific audience

1 John 3:16-18, *"16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."*

INDIVIDUAL: How can I lay my life down?

Personal responsibility

COMMUNAL: How can we be a community where this happens?

Corporate responsibility

2. The fact that I have a lens means that I have blindspots

This is the difference between EISEGESIS and EXEGESIS

EISEGESIS is reading our intentions and interpretations into the Bible

EXEGESIS is letting the Bible dictate the way we interpret it

V 3rd, 2nd, 1st Person Perspective: 3rd

3rd person perspective is all about ACADEMIC STUDY OF THE BIBLE

To discover these original meanings, we need to use tools such as:

Biblical Context

Historical Background

Cultural Context

Author Intent

Grammar & language choice

Acts 16:31, *“And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”*

THESAURUS WORD STUDY approach

What translations you read is important

Translations range from THOUGHT FOR THOUGHT to WORD FOR WORD

Translations like the PASSION and the MESSAGE and the LIVING are paraphrases

Translations like the NASB and AMPLIFIED are more WORD FOR WORD

NIV is around the middle of the pack

Words change over time

EKKLESIA, the Greek word for Church

VI 3rd, 2nd, 1st Person Perspective: 1st

1st person perspective is all about DEVOTION and MEDITATION

Hebrews 4:12 says, *“For the word of God is living and active...”*

This is where things like the THESAURUS WORD STUDY approach is good

THE RABBIT TRAIL method of Bible reading

VII 3rd, 2nd, 1st Person Perspective: 2nd

3rd person perspective is all about the ACADEMIC STUDY of the Bible

1st person perspective is about DEVOTION and MEDITATION

2nd person perspective is all about COMMUNICATING the Bible

NEXT SEEK EQUIP: HOMILETICS

VIII Final Tools: Context

When it comes to context, there are 3 components we need to understand

Authorship

Genre

Meta structures

The Bible has 7 genres

Narrative: Exodus, Ruth, Acts, etc

Poetry: Psalms, Song of Solomon, Lamentations

Wisdom: Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes

Prophecy: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Hosea, Malachi, etc

Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Epistles: 21 letters of NT

Apocalypse: Revelation and parts of Daniel

META STRUCTURES

Each verse is part of the larger structure of the book, which is a part of the larger structure of the New or Old Testament, which is part of the larger structure of the Bible as a whole