

Bethel Baptist Church
Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Pastor-teacher
Bible Study and Discussion Group Handout
January 17, 2024



Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:15

Meditation: Day 3 – The Basics of the Christian Life – “Integrity”

Welcome

Review/Discussion

- Questions or Comments on Spiritual Disciplines
- Questions or Comments from Sermon – “Living By Faith”
 - Working on new podcast presentation discussing faith...
- Review of last session
 - Our mission:
 - BBC – Building Hope, Building Relationships, and Changing Lives
 - To make disciples of all nations
 - We must encourage and challenge believers to make a commitment to grow in faith.
- Continuing our study of “Encounters with God – Transforming Your Bible Study”
 - The purpose of Bible Study is life change...
 - We covered section 1 of book, “Coming To God In His Word – The Invitation”
 - What were some of the topics/areas covered in our last session?

Improving Your Bible Study – “Encounters with God” by Henry, Melvin, and Norman Blackaby
Section 2 – “Receiving From God In His Word”

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

I. Get The Message (Chapter 5)

a. God Has A Message For You

1. All reading of Scripture requires some interpretation by the reader.
2. The key to _____ is to _____ what the original author meant.
3. There are some basis guidelines to aid in understanding Scripture.
4. It is important to understand what God is trying to say to you and not use Scripture to justify what you want to believe.

b. Riches Are Readily Available

1. The ability to handle the word of God is invaluable.
2. Being able to handle the word of God opens the way for communicating the truth that can change a person's life.
3. Living out and proclaiming the Good News found in the Bible are ways to lead others to God.
4. The Bible is a tool for
5. The _____
 - a. The _____
 - b. The _____
6. If the Bible is meant to _____ truth and not to hide it, _____ must intend that you _____ it.

c. Hermeneutics

1. Hermeneutics is the science and art of biblical interpretation.
2. A biblical example of use of the term in Luke 24:27...
3. Four major reasons for hermeneutic principles
 - i. The Historical Gap
 - ii. The Cultural Gap
 - iii. The Linguistic Gap
 - iv. The Philosophical Gap
4. Jumping the Gap
 - a. The Historical and Cultural Gaps
 - i. Reading large portions of Scripture
 - ii. Reading footnotes and introductions in study Bibles
 - b. The Linguistic Gap
 - i. Bible Translations
 1. _____

2. _____
3. _____
- c. “God wants to reveal Himself to you as you study.
So don’t just seek information; seek Him.”

II. Exegesis: Receiving The Message (Chapter 6)

Every word of God is pure;
He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.
Do not add to His words,
Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.
Proverbs 30:5,6

a. Check Your Baggage

1. The first task of interpreters is to understand the original meaning of the text.
2. All readers bring their own baggage to the text.
3. The Bible is a mixture of the divine and human.
 - a. It is God’s word spoken through human instruments.
 - b. God intended that we would read His word and find relevance today.
 - c. Human authors were communicating to a particular people of their day with relevance to them.
 - d. It is very important to understand what the human authors were trying to convey as they were guided by the Holy Spirit.
4. Proper exegesis must always be guided by the overriding purpose of the Bible...the Bible is God centered from beginning to end. The Bible is God’s revelation of Himself...Everything in the Bible has to be understood and interpreted as it is related to God and His purposes.
5. Proper questions to ask in regard to the Bible are these: What was God doing or saying through the biblical writers? What is He doing or saying to us today?

b. Acceptable Presuppositions

1. The Bible is God’s revelation of Himself to humankind.
2. The Bible is a tool through which God speaks to His people today.

3. The Bible is a record of God's interaction with human history. The supernatural is, therefore, both expected and accepted.
4. The Bible contains divine truth about God that is unknowable apart from revelation. Because the Bible does not attempt to answer all questions of human interest, a degree of mystery is acceptable.
5. The Bible requires enlightenment of the Holy Spirit for full and accurate comprehension.

c. Exegesis: You Can Do It

1. Exegesis is a term used to describe the careful study of Scripture to discover the original and intended meaning of a text.

d. Watch Your Step: Pitfalls in Exegesis

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Conclusion: Start Walking