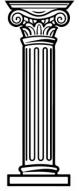


# How to Study the Bible for All It's Worth



## Introduction:

- ⇒ Use a good translation of the Bible or one that is the closest to what was originally said in Hebrew and Greek.
  - \*New American Standard: literal
  - \*New International Version: easy reading level
  - \*English Standard Version: improved English over KJV
- ⇒ A notebook, pen, and dependence upon God to illuminate the meaning and application of His Word to your life as well as those you teach.
- ⇒ Pick a place and time for your study. We are told to “study the Word” and “meditate on the Word” not just read it: 2 Tim. 2:15; Psalm 1

## Three Steps to Effective Bible Study:

- 1) Learn to Observe the passage. WHAT DOES IT SAY?
- 2) Know the Principles of Sound Interpretation. WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
- 3) Know how to Apply the lessons of scripture to one's life.
  - ⇒ WHAT SHOULD BE APPLIED TO MY LIFE?



## The Steps to Methodical Study:

### 1) Observation

- WHO
- WHAT
- WHERE
- WHEN
- WHY
- WHEREFORE/THEREFORE
- Look for things emphasized
- Things repeated
- Things alike
- Things unlike
- Things true to life

### 2) Interpretation

- Interpretation involves questioning. The more questions you ask, the more answers you will find. Interpretation answers the questions you have about the passage.
  - ⇒ Study and define the use of key terms in the context.
  - ⇒ Study the context: what precedes and follows the passage you are looking at.
  - ⇒ What is the divine author saying through the human messenger who wrote scripture under the Spirit's guidance (2 Peter 1:20-21).
  - ⇒ Compare the passage with other scriptures that may give additional insight.
  - ⇒ Discover the cultural and historical background for the passage (was this to Israel under law? Was this to an individual? was it to a church?)
  - ⇒ Last step, consult reliable resources. Writers who believe the Bible is inspired and inerrant (2 Tim. 3:16-17.)



### 3) Application

- James 4:17 - "Many have been educated beyond their obedience."
- James tells us to look at God's Word as a mirror to show us where we could use some help to beautify our lives as we seek to be conformed to the image of Christ (2 Cor. 3:16-18; Romans 8:29).

#### Four Things to Apply to Ourselves:

- 1) Know yourself: weaknesses, needs
- 2) Relate to the various spheres of your life
- 3) Meditate on the Word (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-2)
- 4) Practice: Jesus said obedience was the true manifestation of love for Him (John 14:15)

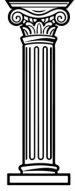
#### Application Questions to Help You Apply the Word to Your Life

- Is there an example to follow?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there a promise to claim?
  - ⇒ Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:6
- Is there a prayer to repeat?
- Is there a command to obey?
  - ⇒ There are about 54 commands in James alone
- Is there a condition to meet?
  - ⇒ Jesus said, "you must abide in Him to bear fruit." (John 15:5)
- Is there a verse to memorize?
- Is there an error to mark?
- Is there a challenge to face?
  - ⇒ Forgiveness, reconciliation, getting rid of bitterness, anger (Eph. 4:30-32).

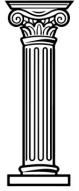


## TOOLS THAT WILL HELP YOU DISCOVER THE TREASURES OF BIBLE STUDY

- ⇒ Bible concordance: Strong's, Young's, etc.
  
- ⇒ Bible Atlas: Moody Bible Atlas, MacMillan Bible Atlas
  
- ⇒ Bible Dictionaries: Wycliffe Bible Dictionary, Unger's Bible Dictionary, Zondervan Bible Dictionary
  
- ⇒ Bible: good size print, paragraphs, good translation like ESV, NIV, NASV. Avoid paraphrase translation for your primary study Bible.
  
- ⇒ Living By the Book by Howard and William Hendricks
  
- ⇒ Use a good study Bible if you need to at the "interpretation" step in your study. Read and think for yourself before consulting secondary sources for help.
  
- ⇒ Bible Handbooks
  
- ⇒ Bible commentaries: The Expositor's Bible Commentary, edited by Frank E. Gaebelein is an excellent set but it is 10 volumes; Bible Knowledge Commentary, John Walvoord and Roy Zuck is a concise but very good commentary; there are many.



# Romans 1:16-17



## A Gift of Righteousness to Those

Question: How can the guilty (1:18-3:20) ever be right in the sight of God?

### 1) God's Power to Deliver is Promised in the Gospel!

⇒ What is the Gospel?

⇒ Historical foundation: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

⇒ Meaning is in the Finished Cross work of Christ:

- Substitution: died for our sins
- Propitiation: satisfied God's demands
- Redemption: purchased, released upon receipt of a payment
- Reconciliation: changed from enmity to peace

⇒ Resurrection of Christ: guarantee that the debt was paid (Romans 4:25)

### 2) God's Power is towards all who believe the Gospel.

⇒ The Object of our faith is what saves. Faith is the hand of the heart reaching out to receive the gift offered to us in the gospel.



### 3) Gift of a Right Standing Is the Power of the Gospel.

⇒ What does "righteousness" in 1:17 mean?

- Attribute of God: He is righteous
- Morally/Ethically right
- Declare right/put into the status of being right - used of court judgments; it does not mean "to make righteous" because still a sinner (4:5), but it is a declaration that a righteous God bestows the status of "righteousness as a gift" to the sinner who believes the gospel (Douglas Moo, "God's activity to give us a status, we can define as 'the act by which God brings people into a right relationship with Himself.'", 74).

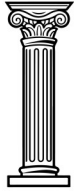
⇒ Martin Luther's testimony concerning this verse: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

⇒ This gift of righteousness is God imputing the righteousness of Christ to the sinner who believes:

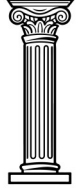
- Genesis 15:6 with Romans 4
- A gift of righteousness: 5:17; Phil. 3:9; 1 Cor.1:30; 2 Cor. 5:21
- Without works: 4:4-5; 3:27-28; 3:20; 10:3
- Without the law: 3:21

#### Conclusion:

- ⇒ Only the Gospel conveys this power to save sinners.
- ⇒ Any other message claiming to be gospel that is not in keeping with Romans, Galatians, and 1 Corinthians 15 is anathema.



# ROMANS: LESSON 1



## 1:1-17

- ⇒ Observe & discuss Romans 1:1-7, taking note of everything said about Christ.
  
- ⇒ Book of Romans Overview: Guilt, Grace, and Gratitude
  
- ⇒ Theme of Romans "The Righteousness of God"
  
- ⇒ Discuss:
  - What is the gospel?
  - When did you first experience its power in your life?
  
- ⇒ Dig Deeper: Romans 1:14-17

### Homework Week 1:

- ⇒ define "salvation", "gospel", "believe" and "righteousness" found in 1:16-17. Use bible dictionaries and any other resources you choose
  
- ⇒ Read in preparation for next week Romans 1:18 - 3:20 in two different versions
  - Highlight verses that stand out and write down any questions you may have
  - Recommended: take time to journal what God is speaking through these words to you.