

Connection Groups Summer Elective

How to Study the Bible

to the Lord, so walk in him. I received
the faith, just as you were taught.
e by philosophy and empty deceit,
ing to the elemental spirits² of the
in him the whole fullness of deity
in him, who is the head of all rule

of these the wrath of God is coming.⁹ In these you too once wa
you were living in them.⁸ But now you must put them all a
wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.⁹ I
one another, seeing that you have put off the old self⁷ with
10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in kno

¹ Probably demonic rulers and authorities ² Or *in it* (that is, the cross) ³ Or *about the things he has seen* ⁴ Son
⁵ Greek *therefore your members that are on the earth* ⁶ Some manuscripts add *upon the sons of disobedience*
supplied in verse 10

“We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.”

-EFCA Doctrinal Statement Article 2

Regardless of which book or passage we turn to, as we OBSERVE THE TEXT there are now two INTERPRETIVE questions that we must ask (and in this order):

- QUESTION 1: ***What is the author's point?*** (That is, What did the author mean in this passage within this book?)

- QUESTION 2: ***How does it fit in the Bible?*** (That is, How does this passage [within this book] illuminate God's plan to reconcile us to himself under Christ?)

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QUESTION 3:
How should it affect us now?

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Stay On the Line

(God's Word)

...the Lord, so walk in him. Prooved
the faith, just as you were taught,
... by philosophy and empty deceit,
... to the elemental spirits² of the
... in him, who is the head of all rule

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Stay on the Line

ADD to (upward line)
Often leads to Legalism

...the Lord, so walk in him. I received
the faith, just as you were taught
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... to the elemental spirits² of the
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Stay on the Line

SUBTRACT from (downward line)
Often leads to Liberalism

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Leviticus 18:4

You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the Lord your God.

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Deuteronomy 4:1-2

“And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you.

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Deuteronomy 6:4-9

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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Deuteronomy 31:9–13

Then Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and to all the elders of Israel. And Moses commanded them, “At the end of every seven years, at the set time in the year of release, at the Feast of Booths, when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.”

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Psalm 19:7–11

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

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Isaiah 55:10–11

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

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Matthew 5:17–19

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

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1 Thessalonians 2:13 and 2 Peter 3:15–16

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters.

There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do other Scriptures.

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Isaiah 40:6–9

A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?”
“All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. 7 The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” 9 You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!”

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1 Peter 1:22–25

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for

“All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

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Isaiah 40:10–11

See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his
reward is with him, and his recompense
accompanies him. He tends his flock like a
shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart; he gently
leads those that have young.”

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2 Timothy 3:15–17

From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

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QUESTION 3:

How should it affect us now?

(That is, *How should the meaning of the passage [within this book] and its illumination of God's plan affect me and my listeners now?*)

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1 Thessalonians 5

Nine questions to ask regarding the APPLICATION of the Scriptures to our lives:

1. *Is there an example for me to follow?*
2. *Is there a sin to avoid?*
3. *Is there a promise to claim?*
4. *Is there a prayer to repeat?*
5. *Is there a command to obey?*
6. *Is there a condition to meet?*
7. *Is there a verse to memorize?*
8. *Is there an error (doctrinal/theological) to mark?*
9. *Is there a challenge to face?*

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