

RELEVANT

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE FOR TODAY'S ISSUES

SESSION 2: HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Two Basic Assumptions

- We discover meaning, we don't create it.
- The saved will "get" the Bible in a way the lost will not.

Basic Rule of Interpretation

- A text cannot mean what it could not have meant to its original author and audience.

5 Step Process for Understanding the Bible

- ✓ Read carefully and determine meaning for the Biblical audience .
- ✓ Consider the differences between the biblical audience and today.
- ✓ Determine the principles which are relevant to the biblical audience and today.
- ✓ Think about what the rest of the Bible says about the principles.
- ✓ Apply the text to today's situation.

What Do We Bring to the Text?

- As readers, we are not by nature entirely neutral/objective. We bring a lot of _____ with us when we come to the Bible.
- Preunderstanding includes everything we bring to the text with us _____ we actually study the text.

Preunderstanding Comes From:

- Sunday School, Church, Bible Studies
- Music
- Jokes and Art
- Non-biblical literature

Dangers of Preunderstanding

- _____
- Theological Agenda
- Familiarity
- _____ Baggage

Example Text - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

12 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, 13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. 14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. 16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit; 20 do not despise prophetic utterances. 21 But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil.

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

25 Brethren, pray for us.

26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. 27 I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren.

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.