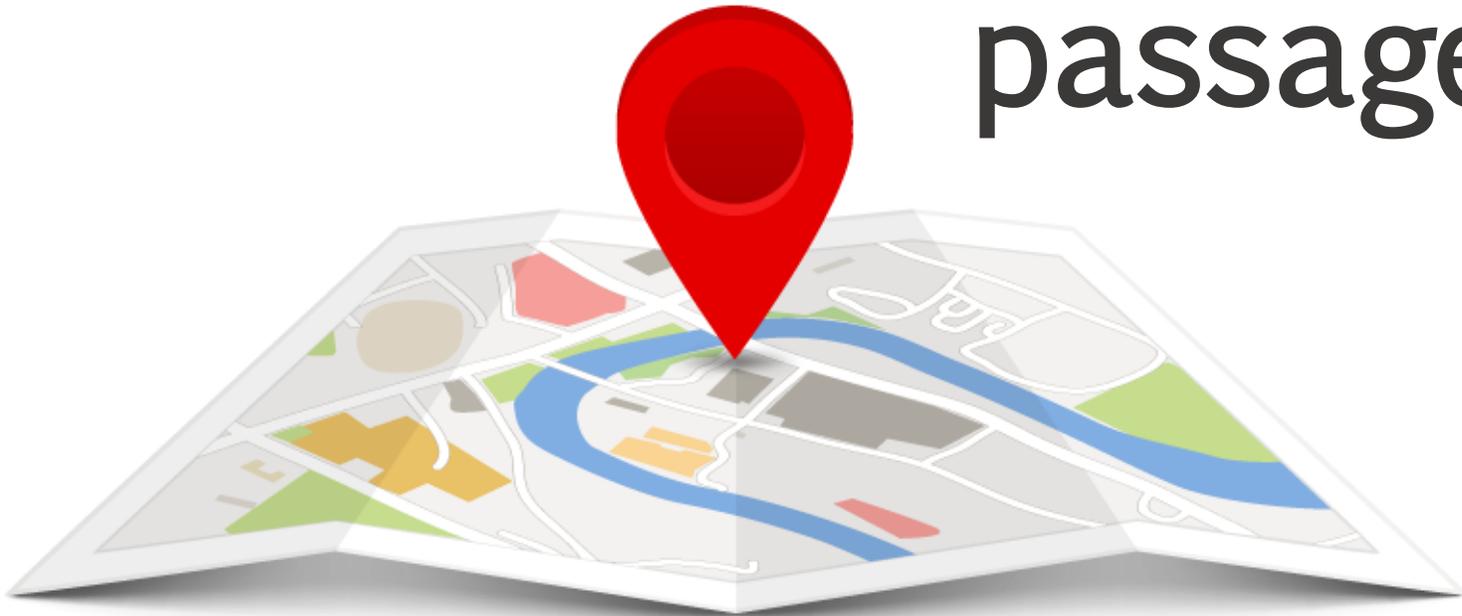


Application



Application

Deciding what the
passage asks of me.



Application flows out of thorough observation and correct interpretation. Application begins with belief, which then results in doing! It takes place as you are confronted with the truth and respond to it in obedience, and the glorious end result is transformation. You're made more like your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Kay Arthur

Bible study is much more
than an intellectual process
or simply a classroom exercise.
It is a life-transforming process!

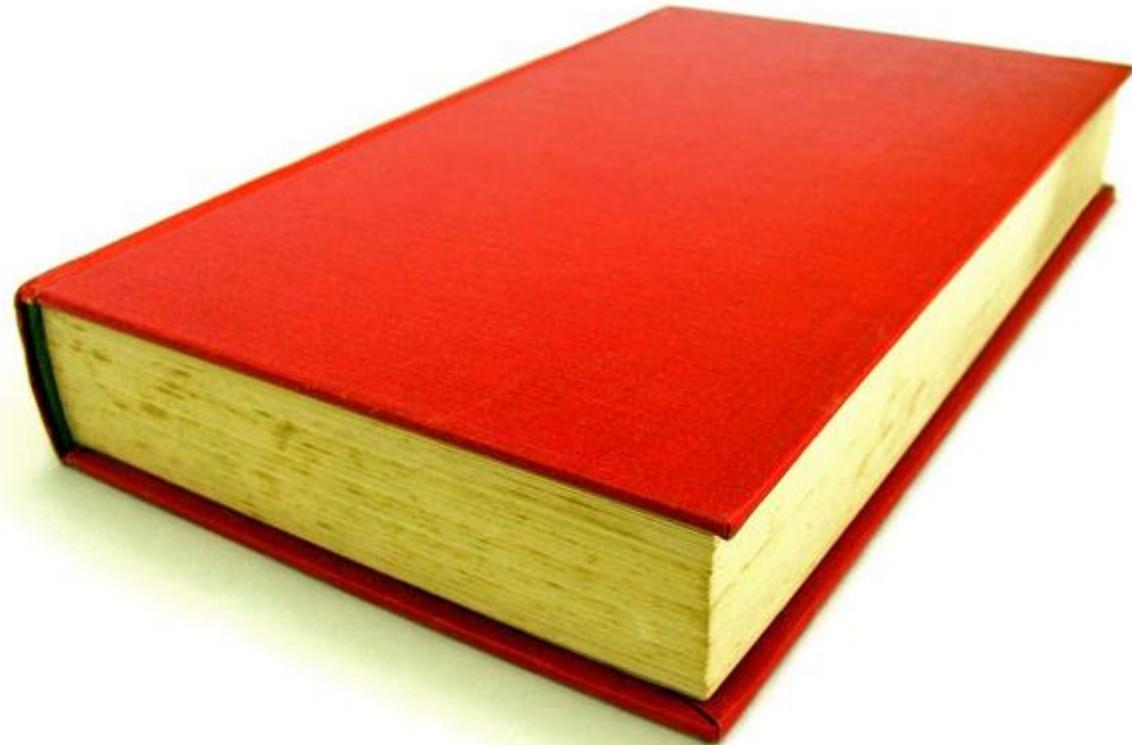
In fact,
when it comes to Bible study...
once you truly know what
a passage means,
you are responsible to live it!

No matter how much you know about God's word, if you don't apply what you learn, Scripture will never benefit your life.

The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them.

Mark Twain

The person who does not study the Bible has no advantage over the one who does not have the Bible.



The person who does not apply the Bible
has no advantage over the one who does
not have or does not study the Bible.



**Basic Guidelines
for deciding application:**



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.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Teaching:

Teaching, or doctrine, is what the Word of God says on any particular subject in any passage.

That teaching is always true!

Therefore, everything that God says in his Word about any given subject is absolute truth!

Reproof:

Reproof exposes areas in our thinking and behaving that do not align with God's Word.

Reproof is finding out where you have incorrect thinking or where you haven't been doing what God says is right.

Reproof:

Reproof is the application of agreeing with God, acknowledging where we are wrong in our thoughts or in our behavior.

Correction:

Correction is the next area of application, and is often the most difficult. Many times we can see what is wrong, but perhaps we are reluctant to take the necessary steps to correct it.

Correction:

Correction often happens by confessing what is wrong in our lives and forsaking or turning away from the things that do not line up with God's Word.

Training in Righteousness:

Training in Righteousness is the flip side of reproof and correction. God's Word not only shows us what is wrong but also is a handbook for doing what is right.

Training in Righteousness:

Training in Righteousness occurs when we agree that God's Word is correct, and we submit to the Spirit in our thinking and living. Our lives change as we believe that God's Word is best and we identify the specific ways to go about living it out.

Application



Application

is the **3rd stage** in studying the Bible. Application is the active process of trying to *decide* **purpose** and **practice**.

Application



Applying the purpose
is the discipline of deciding
what the intended goal
originally was and doing it.

Purpose

Applying the overall purpose of a passage is the process of determining what God's original goal, will & design was via the writing and seeking to obey, follow & submit to that purpose in all possible areas.

Application



Intended application questions;

What did God want them to do?

What did he hope to change?

What would he want me to do?

What should I change?

Application



Intended application questions;

“How did the biblical authors of a given passage want his hearers or readers to respond? What did the author intend the readers to do?”

Application



Intended application questions;

“How does that intended response affect me today and what actions should I take?”

Application



Applying the practice
is the discipline of deciding
what the inferred goal
currently is and doing it.

Practice

Applying the overall practice of a passage is the process of determining what God's current goal, will & design *is* via the writing and seeking to obey, follow & submit to that purpose in all things.

Application



Inferred application questions;

How is my world different today?

How is my world the same today?

Does that affect the application of the message?

What would these principles look like in today's world?

What does God want me to do?

Application



Inferred application questions;

How does what it meant *back then* affect what it may mean *right now*? What is 'indirectly inferred' for us right now, based on what was 'directly intended' for them back then?

For instance, obeying the command **not to covet a neighbor's house or not to steal** remains as timely today as it did when Moses received it on Mount Sinai. And the **inferred application** for us is **essentially identical** in our day & culture.

Conversely, applying the marketplace/places of worship evangelism found in Acts 17 as a model for all evangelism may not be appropriate application. Given that the kinds of socially acceptable public arenas for considering new ideas simply don't exist in Western cities, we may need to look for more suitable forms in our day.

Another example would be when Jesus says **'do not look lustfully at a woman'** his intended goal is that men do not lust after women. Period.

But in his day, lusting may have been limited to person to person glances...but clearly the inferred application is all areas & all inventions where lust can occur, such as paper, print, internet, phones etc.

Most often the **intended purpose** of the application is very **specific** (don't lust) but the **inferred practice** may be very **general** and vary greatly by person, time and culture (internet, virtual reality etc.)

The point being,
one major application dilemma is
understanding whether a biblical
principle is **timeless** or **time-bound**,
transcultural or **culture-specific**.

To help make such a determination there are several questions you should ask of a given passage:

- Does it present a broad theological or moral principle which the Bible offers elsewhere or a specific one?
- Does the larger context limit the application or promote a more universal application?

- Does subsequent revelation limit or qualify the application?

- Is its teaching contradicted elsewhere, showing it was limited to exceptional situations?

- Are cultural conditions identified or assumed by its authors, making its universal application inappropriate?

- Is the particular cultural form expressed by it present today, and with the same significance?

- Is the command or application at variance with standard cultural norms of its day?
- Is there an explicit or implicit condition that limits its application?

- Is the applicational rationale rooted in creation, in God's character, or in part of his redemptive plan?

- Can we deduce a broad principle that a specific biblical text promotes as timeless even if we cannot apply universally without alteration the particular command, example, promise, or warning of the text?

- If we discern such a principle, we must then devise new illustrations or applications of that principle for new situations...

**For example, Paul's teaching on eating food
sacrificed to idols carries a broad
principle/purpose:**

**“Christians are free on morally neutral
practices, however they should weigh
how their freedom might affect fellow
believers.”**

Although we may not need to ever concern ourselves with the practice of meat sacrificed to idols, we should always be concerned with the principle of say how our freedom to drink alcohol may affect another believer or a recovering alcoholic etc.

Next Week:

**The driving factor when it
comes to application!**

We will be more apt to apply the Bible to our lives when we believe and embrace the **promises and **instruction** of God within *as more rewarding* and *more satisfying* than the promises of sin & disobedience and the comfort of living for self.**

**We can study the Bible all day long,
and use incredible observation,
interpretation and application skills...**

**...yet, if our hearts and minds believe
that the world's prescription for life will
yield more satisfaction, more joy, more
pleasure, more reward...**

...we will fail to submit to the Spirit, fail to obey the Lord and fail to make the right choices.

**This is so pertinent to Ephesians 4.
If we believe that there is more joy, more
satisfaction, more reward, more value in
putting on the Spirit and walking worthily of
our calling...we will likely passionately
pursue all avenues of application!**

Conversely, if we believe that there is more joy, more satisfaction, more reward, more value in living in the former manner of life and living as the gentiles do/ world does...we will likely ignore the clear application that God is calling us to.

**Meaning, our capacity to obey/apply
the Word of God rises and falls in direct
proportion to our willingness to believe that
what he instructs in his Word is for our
ultimate good and eternal joy.**