

Week 10 Bible Study: Application

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, or _____, 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 exposes areas in our thinking and behaving that do not _____ 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** is the application of _____ with God, acknowledging where we are wrong in our thoughts or in our behavior.

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

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** occurs when we agree that God's Word is correct, and we _____ 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 is the 3rd stage in studying the Bible. Application is the active process of trying to *decide* _____ and _____.

Applying the purpose is the discipline of deciding what the _____ goal _____ 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.

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

Applying the practice is the discipline of deciding what the _____ goal _____ 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.

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? 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?*

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

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.

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.