

# COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

## How to Study

*The only goal of biblical interpretation that truly honors the authority of God's Word is to discover the divinely intended meaning that was communicated by the original author to the original audience in the original context. - Matt Waymeyer*

Before you Study Three Notes on Pre-Reading Preparation

- Pray
- Prepare Your Mind
- Beware of Predispositions

1. Use the rules of common sense

Read it Literally

Read it seeking the basic meaning

Read it Carefully

- don't overlook the obvious
- don't just skim it
- pay attention

Read it Purposely

- Don't just read to read it (checking a box)
- Read it personally: this is for you
- Read it for it's purpose: this is for you but it's not about you. This is about God and His glory.

2. Ask basic questions

- Who is speaking?
- Who is being spoken to?
- What is being said?
- What is the main idea?

3. Three Keys To Biblical Interpretation: Context, Context, Context

- Recognize context
- Recognize genre

4. Look for key words and phrases

- Notice repetition
- Notice transition words
- Notice contrasts, comparisons, and commands
- Notice theological words
- Notice lists
- Notice key doctrines
- Notice unfamiliar terms, historical references, and locations
- Notice who is being addressed: number, audience, context

5. Read for Application

Your Purpose in All This is To Ask: What is the Text Saying & What do I do With It? (in that order)

Dangers of Studying Poorly

Misinterpretation - Not understanding the point of the passage

Subinterpretation - not understanding the WHOLE point of the passage

Superinterpretation -Putting your own understanding on the point of the passage

Four Substitutes for Application:

- a. We substitute interpretation for application
- b. We substitute superficial application for substantive life change
- c. We substitute rationalization for application
- d. We substitute an emotional experience for a volitional decision

As we study, three helpful questions are:

1. What is the writer trying to say?
2. What does the Bible say about this in other places?
3. What does it say about me?