

We believe discipleship is a direction
not a destination.



Living by The Book
Learn to Read & Study the Bible

Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **APPLICATION**

- **Week 10** Critical, Truth, Transformation (CH 39-41)
- **Week 11** Steps, Customize, Questions (CH 42-44)
- **Week 12** Principles, Changed Life, Get Started (CH 45-48)



The Critical Step of Application

Chapter 39



Self-Help Books

- How many self-help books do you think are out there?
 - ~15,000 books
 - 10 million sold last year
- What do all these books have in common?
 - Few people apply the information inside
- To be clear, the Bible is not a self-help book
 - It is a life transforming book
 - From God



Application Neglected

- Application is the most neglected yet the most needed stage in the Bible study process
- We frequently come to the Bible to:
 - Study it
 - Teach it
 - Preach it
 - Outline it
 - Everything except to be changed by it



Excitement

- Do you get excited when you learn a new truth?
 - The pastor reveals some hidden truth
 - And you yell “AMEN!”
 - And tell everyone about this new truth
- But we, as Christians, tend to fail at applying the new truth in our lives
- From here on we will discuss the How of application



Five Substitutes for Application

- I do apply the Bible in my life
 - As a matter of fact, I apply it daily
 - I know the Bible better than anyone in my family
 - I obey all the rules in the Bible
 - I only do bad things when there is no other choice
 - I cry every time the missionary comes and tells us about what life is like in that other country
 - Are these application of the lessons in the Bible
 - Or substitution to make us feel better



Five Substitutes for Application 1

- **We substitute interpretation for application**
 - I know and understand what the Bible says
 - Ask me anything, really go ahead, I have the answer
 - This means I'm a good Christian
 - Because I know what the Bible says
 - So it is sin to know the good and yet not do it.

James 4:17



Five Substitutes for Application 2

- **We substitute superficial obedience for substantive life-change**
 - We apply biblical truth to areas where we're already applying it
 - Not to new areas where we're not applying it
 - Result: no noticeable change in our lives
- We list all the ways we obey, leaving off the ways we don't
 - This leads to the next substitute



Five Substitutes for Application 3

- **We substitute rationalization for repentance**
 - When we are challenged by sin in our life, we
 - Rationalize it, make excuses for it
 - It's not my fault
 - Everyone's doing it
 - It was only a little sin
 - What are your rationalization? Your excuses?



Five Substitutes for Application 4

- **We substitute an emotional experience for a volitional decision**
- “If all we do is water our handkerchiefs and sob a few mournful prayers, then go merrily on our way without altering our behavior in the slightest—then our spirituality boils down to nothing more than a vapid emotional experience.”
 - Your tears don’t change your actions, your actions do



Five Substitutes for Application 5

- **We substitute communication for transformation**
 - We talk the talk, but don't walk the walk
 - This is where the hypocritical Christian comes from
 - I tell everyone what the right thing to do is
 - How to act, talk, behave
 - All while doing none of it
- Remember David and Bathsheba



Look in the Mirror

- How often do you look at yourself in the mirror everyday?
 - What do you look at/for in the mirror
 - Is my hair straight?
 - Is there a stain on my shirt?
 - Do I have pizza sauce on my check?
 - What happens if you never do this?
 - People are going to laugh and point at you



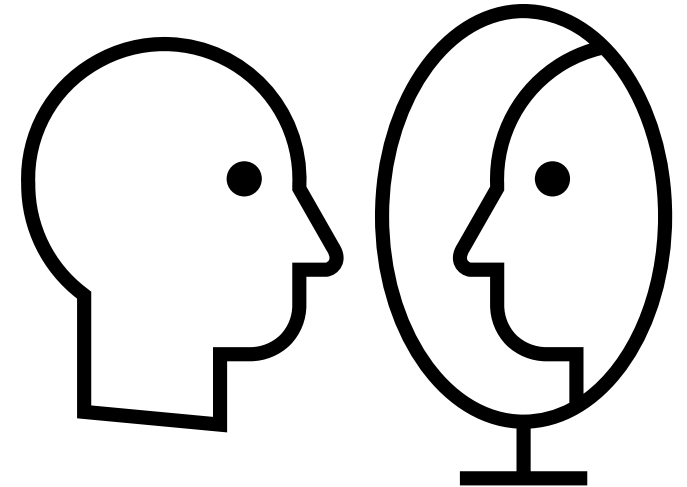
²¹ Therefore, ridding yourselves of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, humbly receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was. ²⁵ But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works—this person will be blessed in what he does.

James 1:21–25



Look in the Mirror

- We need to take a good long look into our spiritual mirror
 - Is a relationship messed up?
 - Is that a bit of pride on your check
- We must take what we learn in
 - Bible study, the pulpit, Life Group
- Take it into ourselves and change
 - Comb your hair, wash that pride off

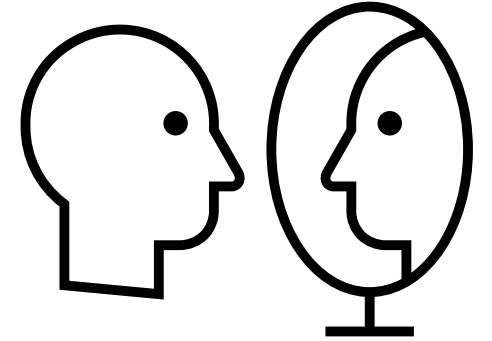


Four Steps of Application

Chapter 40



The Mirror of God's Word



- Four ways the Word transforms our lives
 - Come: Come to the Word
 - Conviction: Convicted by the Word
 - Convincing: The Word convinces us to walk with God
 - Conversion: We start to live differently

Come

- The first thing we do is *come* to the Word
 - The first two steps in Bible Study
 - Observation: What do I see?
 - Interpretation: What does it mean?
 - This is how we come to the Word



Come, Reminder

- Less time in observation will give you
 - Erroneous interpretations
 - Therefore, erroneous application
- Where, the more time in observation
 - Your interpretation is more likely to be correct
 - And your application is more likely to be correct



Come, To Be Clear

- There is only **one** interpretation of scriptures
 - We may disagree on what that is
 - But there can be only one
- There are **many** applications in our lives from the scriptures



Come, The Warning

- If your interpretation is flawed (wrong)
 - Then you will apply things into your life that are
 - Flawed and wrong
 - Be Careful!!!



Conviction

- After looking into the Word we are convicted by what we find
 - All Scripture is inspired by God, and is profitable for teaching, for **rebuking**, for **correcting**, for training in righteousness,
2 Timothy 3:16
- We looked into the mirror and we do not like what we see
 - We are convicted
 - We feel guilty



Conviction, But Without

- But without this conviction there can be no change
 - Conviction hurts your feelings, your spirit
 - It forces you to look at the dirty, sinful person you are
 - You will feel exposed



Conviction, The Rub

- This convicted feeling is why some people avoid the Bible
 - They avoid
 - Bible Study
 - Life Groups
 - Sermons
 - God altogether
- But without conviction there can be no change



Convincing

- The Bible is not all conviction
 - The Bible gives us hope
 - Hope that we can change
 - That we can be better
- The Bible convinces us we can walk in a new life
 - A life of joy and peace



¹² Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,
¹³ bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:12–15



¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:16–17



Convincing, Inspiration

- Where, in the Bible, do we find inspiration?
 - David, Samuel, Joseph, Paul, Jesus
- Look at the lives these men lived
 - Do you see hope there?
 - Do you see change there?
 - The Bible is full of
 - Hope
 - Change



Conversion

- Conversion: We start to live differently
 - This is where we come to faith in Christ
- Conversion is not a single event
 - It is an ongoing process of becoming more like Christ
- This is where Bible Study comes in
 - How do I know what I should change into?



Conversion

- How do I know what I should change into?
 - Through Bible Study we are convicted of what we need to change
- We all have sins in our lives that we struggle with
 - But we do not struggle with every sin in the Bible
- But we must change, not so God loves us more
 - But because we have a change of heart
 - But what changes exactly?



A Transformed People

Chapter 41



Transformed

- We have all seen the transformations in movies before
 - The dirty worker, athlete, warrior, etc..
 - Covered in mud, dirt, blood...
 - The camera fades out and cuts to a different scene
 - Maybe weeks, month, or years later
 - A clean sharply dressed man appears
 - Your reaction is supposed to be
 - Is this *really* the same person?!



This Should Be Us

- This should be the way people look at us
 - You go back to your 20th high school reunion
 - When people talk to you are they surprised by the person you have transformed into?
 - What would they say
 - Brad your so... what?
 - Nicer? Meaner?
 - Married?!



What Changed

- I'm not the same person I was, I've changed
 - What exactly changed about you?
- To be clear, you are still you
 - Not everything about you has changed
 - This is not "Invasion of the Body Snatchers"
- But what has changed?
 - Or what should have changed?



God's Workmanship

- God made you
 - He created your own unique core identity
 - You are you and there is no one else like you
- Ephesians 2:10
 - “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”



Let's Analyse This Verse

- If we submit this verse to the observational questions
 - Who, what, where, when, why, and wherefore
- We Find
 - Who we are: God's "workmanship"
 - Where we come from: "created in Christ Jesus"
 - Why we are: "for good works"
 - When we were made: "which God prepared beforehand"



Let's Analyze This Verse

- We Find
 - Wherefore we should live:
 - What difference all of this makes
 - “that we should walk in them,” (good works)
- You can see that there are some key terms to be chased
 - Workmanship, Good Works, Beforehand, and Walk



Workmanship

- Workmanship refers to a “made thing” or “crafted thing”
 - What do you imagine when you here
 - “That took real workmanship”
 - A skilled master carefully and thoughtfully created
 - Think of Michelangelo’s *David*
 - Not by accident or random chance
- This is what we are, God’s masterpiece, His intentional creation



Workmanship

- But workmanship is not only beautifully made and designed
 - It is made with a purpose
 - It is made with a task in mind
 - It is made with features to enable it to do this task specifically
- God created us with a purpose in mind from the start



Good Works

- This is straight forward
 - Do good deeds
 - Help little old ladies across the street
 - Feeding the homeless
 - Opening a soup kitchen
- These are all good things and should be done
 - But what is good works in context to workmanship

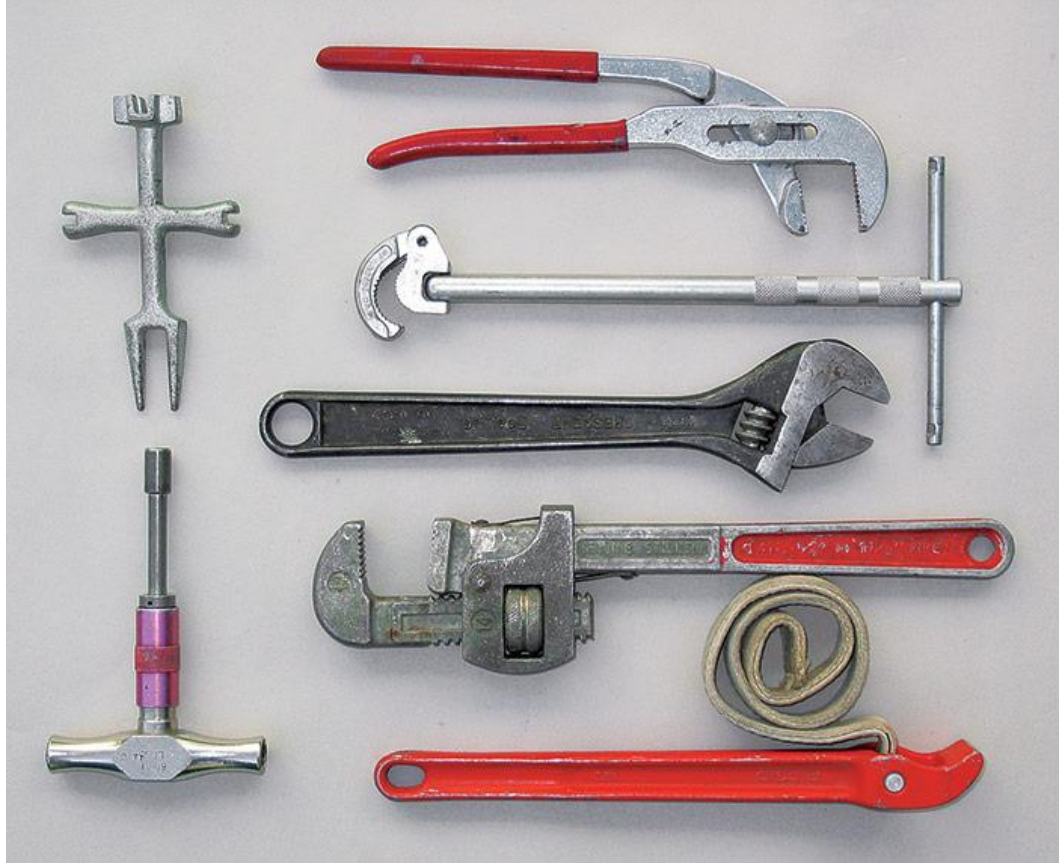


Specific Purpose

- We were created for a specific purpose
 - We were created for specific “good works”
 - When a craftsman creates a tool
 - He has a purpose in mind for that tool
 - When a job needs doing
 - The right tool is needed to do it well



What Are These Tools Used For?



What Are These Tools Used For?



We Are Designed By God

- We were created for a specific purpose
 - And we are the right tool for the job
- Each piece of workmanship has specific good works that it was designed to do
 - We need to figure out what kind of tool we are
 - So, we can know what kind of good work we are designed to do
 - Are you a screwdriver, cutting shears, voltmeter?



Beforehand

- When is “beforehand”?
 - Before we were
 - Saved, born, the world was made?
 - Yes
 - Before all, God wanted you to do certain good works now
 - He made you for this time to do His good work



Walk

- You were created for a purpose
 - Great!
 - When am I up to be used?
 - Sundays? Holidays? At home?
 - Walk here means to live
 - That means daily
 - That means everywhere
 - Work, home, church, community



Walk

- Your usefulness is not a one-time event
 - You are needed everyday, all day
 - God created you with purpose
- God wants you to carry out His purpose for you every day
 - And in the everyday events of life



The Transformational Process

- How does Ephesians 2:10 affect our understanding of the transformational process?
 - We do not become someone else
 - There will be changes in our lives
 - But it doesn't change who you are
 - This may comfort some of you



The Transformational Process

- This may also confuse some of you
 - Some, maybe even many, Christians believe they must become like great or famous Christians
 - C.S. Lewis, Billy Graham, Mark Estep



The Transformational Process

- “Never try to “become” someone else
 - Always be who God made you to be
 - Learn from others
 - Take wisdom from how they live
 - Follow their example if it helps
- But stick with “who you ‘be.’”
 - Not who you are, we all still need work



What Does Change

- Does anyone know the “Ship of Theseus” thought experiment?
 - If you fix and replace every part of a ship, say the S.S. Minnow, would it still be the S.S. Minnow?
- Let’s look at 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - “if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”
- This seems to suggested a total change and transformation
 - A whole new and different person



But I'm Still Me

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 implies you still can see “the man”
 - He is a new creature not a different creature
 - I'm still recognizable as Brad
 - I'm just a new Brad
- Ok I'm a new creature, but what changes?!



What Changes?!

- Out with the old in with the new
 - Paul sets up a contrast between the new and the old
 - What old things go away?
 - What new things come?



What Old Things Go Away?

- Old beliefs
- Old values
- Old behaviors
- Old habits
- Old relationships
- Old dreams
- An old environment
- An old job
- Old career plans
- An old character
- Old morals
- Old desires
- Old ways of communicating
- Old language

What New Things Come?

- New relationship with Christ
- New standing before God
- New heart
- New empowerment from the Holy Spirit
- New capacity to understand God's Word
- A new destiny



The Effect

- These new things effect the old things
- New beliefs
- New values
- New behaviors
- New habits
- New relationships
- New dreams
- A new environment
- A new job
- New career plans
- A new character
- New morals
- New desires
- New ways of communicating
- New language



Sanctification

- Sanctification is the process whereby God is “cleaning us up pretty.”
 - God is “re-forming” us until we are like Christ
 - We are now a new version of what we were
- God is making us into what he meant us to be when He originally thought us up:
 - His workmanship
 - His masterpiece



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Observation: What do I see?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Application: How does it work?

