

# How to Study the Bible

## The Study Process

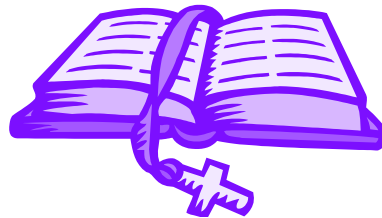
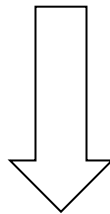
## THE STUDY PROCESS

There are two basic approaches to studying the Bible:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ DEDUCTIVE

- taking an idea, already formed opinion, and then going to the text to find Scriptures that support that idea or opinion

**IDEA**



**BIBLICAL TEXT**

I.E., Money is Evil

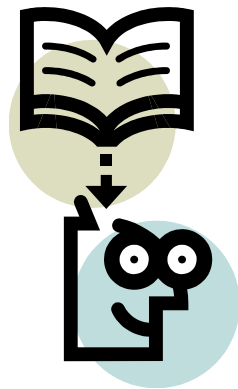
- go to the Bible to find verses that support such an idea.

This method can sometimes be useful – i.e., Bible Study Guides First Foundations Class; Systematic Theology

2. \_\_\_\_\_ INDUCTIVE

- beginning with a text of Scripture, without any preconceived ideas or opinions about its meaning (still understanding our presuppositions).
- finding out what the text says itself – what the text declares to be its idea.

## **BIBLICAL TEXT**



## **IDEA**

Inductive Bible study involves three basic steps:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ OBSERVATION

What the text \_\_\_\_\_ SAYS

2. \_\_\_\_\_ INTERPRETATION

What the text \_\_\_\_\_ MEANS by what it \_\_\_\_\_ SAYS

3. \_\_\_\_\_ APPLICATION

How the text is \_\_\_\_\_ USED

*Accurate interpretation and correct application rest on the accuracy of your observations. Therefore, it is vital that you develop observation skills, even if at first they seem time-consuming or you feel less than adequate and even awkward doing them. Studying inductively is a learning process that does not happen overnight.* – Kay Arthur.

## WHAT ARE THE BASICS OF OBSERVATION?

1. After you have chosen a book, the first fundamental step in observing the biblical text, is \_\_\_\_\_ PRAY

Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Thy law. – Psalm 119:18

1 Peter 2:1-2

2. Discover the Overall \_\_\_\_\_ CONTEXT of the book.

The best way to do this is by conducting an \_\_\_\_\_ OVERVIEW of the entire book before studying any of the details.

Why?

Context is \_\_\_\_\_ KING and it

\_\_\_\_\_ RULES

\_\_\_\_\_ INTERPRETATION

At this stage we are trying to discover the Author's \_\_\_\_\_ PURPOSE for writing the book.

What are the steps to overview the entire book?

Learn for what is most \_\_\_\_\_ OBVIOUS

**First**, determine what kind of genre' you are reading.

## GENRE

What in the world?

What are we talking about when we say a Bible interpreter must consider the “genre”?

Genre means \_\_\_\_\_ KIND

OR

\_\_\_\_\_ STYLE

OR

\_\_\_\_\_ SPECIES

When we talk about Biblical Genre, we simply mean, what kind of literature is the passage or book we are examining.

We have different kinds of genre in our everyday lives.

So too does the Bible.

You must ask yourself what kind of literature we are examining if you want to understand the intended meaning.

What is the difference between:  
Genesis and Isaiah?

Acts and 1 Corinthians?

Matthew and Proverbs?

Psalms and Revelation?

In special hermeneutics, you would consider more specifically the different nuances of genre. But for basic purposes, you merely need to identify and know the basic forms of genre found in the Bible.

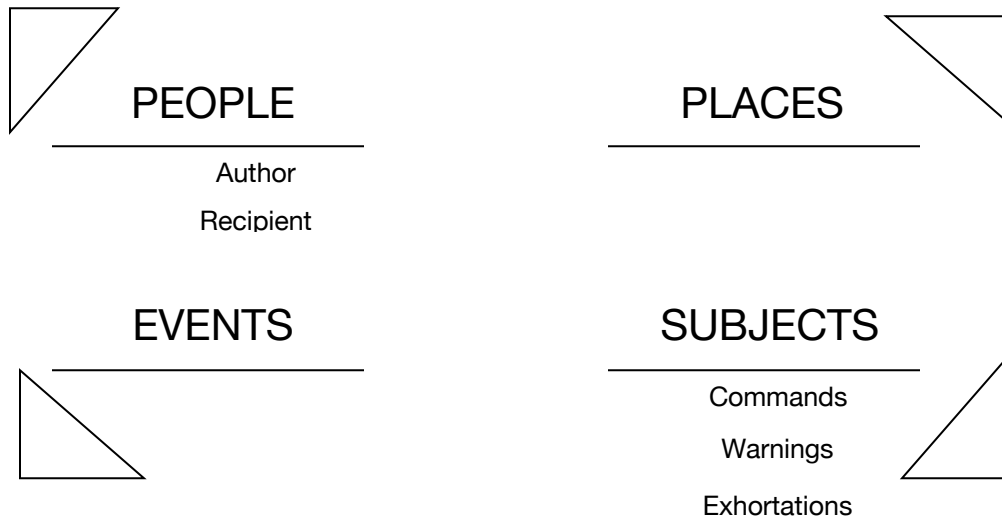
History; Law, Poetry, Proverb, Prophecy, Epistle

**Second**, read and re-reading the book – there is no substitute.

One of the ways you can read and re-read the book is to read with a specific purpose each time you go through it.

Look for:

## The Four Corners of Bible Study: (WRITE ON WHITE BOARD)



**Third**, discover facts about the FOUR corners of Bible Study:

Ask the six Observation Questions: 5W's and an H regarding each of these FOUR corners of Bible study.

**WHO    WHAT    WHEN    WHERE    WHY    and    HOW**

i.e, Author, recipients, Others mentioned, specific geographical places, major events.

Genre determines which corners you should begin with.

As you glean information about people and events, you will discern the historical context in which the author is writing.

Over the next several weeks we will start to put all that we've been talking through into practice using the book of Titus.

For our purposes in Titus, and using the Titus Worksheet:

1. Read through Titus and mark every reference to the Author of the book and fill out what you learn on the Author Observation Worksheet.

2. Read through Titus a second time and mark every reference to the Recipient(s) of the book and fill out what you learn on the Recipient Observation Worksheet.
3. Complete the Author/Recipient chart. Put what you have learned about the Author and the Recipient on the provided chart according to chapter.
4. As you have been reading and marking, you should begin to notice several words that are frequently repeated or appear very important. Begin writing them down on your Key Words Observation Worksheet.

I know that this takes time and is a fairly slow process. Many good Bible teachers skip this important step and opt out for merely reading what others have said. Skipping this process limits your ability to know with certainty what the book is about and what its main purpose is.

So, try it before you trash it. Fast food is rarely healthy – you get the idea?

# **AUTHOR OBSERVATION WORKSHEET**





# **RECIPIENT OBSERVATION WORKSHEET**



# **KEY WORDS OBSERVATION WORKSHEET**

Begin keeping a list of the key words you find in Titus.

