

# Biblical Exegesis

## Guidelines to the Study of the Bible

### A. Pray

1. The study of God's Word is a holy task.
2. It is to be approached with humble dependence upon God.
3. Pray for illumination, insight, and discernment from the Holy Spirit.
4. Pray to be led into the truth.

### B. Read, Read, Read

1. Read the text to be studied (book, chapter, paragraph) several times.
  - Slowly, carefully and even out loud if need be.
2. Use as many accurate translations as possible.
3. Purpose: to get an overview of the text and become familiar with the larger context.

### C. Outline the Passage

1. Carefully observe everything in the passage...God is speaking.
2. Pick out the main points.
  - Put the minor points below the main points...(called subordinate points, phrases).
3. Ask these Questions:
  - a. "What is the author (and through him, God) saying in this passage?"
  - b. "What is the main point?"
  - c. "What is the flow of the argument?"
4. Pick out Key Words and Phrases

**D. Do a Word Study of the Key Words**

1. It might be helpful to consult a dictionary to get a basic English meaning...be cautious!!!
2. Look up the word in a Concordance.
3. Study each word in its context.
4. Purpose: To understand what the Bible means when it uses various words. Bible authors were Bible readers; it informed their vocabulary more than any other source.

**E. Do All Remaining Investigation**

1. Look up cross references
2. Look up important people, places, concepts, culturalisms, etc. in a Bible Dictionary
3. Look up any Old Testament quotes in their context
4. Consult the maps in your Bible or in a Bible Atlas
5. Consult Commentaries...WARNING: do not do this step before you get to this point...do as much work on your own as you can.

**F. Interpretation: Four Essentials**

1. Let the Bible speak for itself.
2. Seek the plain meaning of the text (use the gift of common sense).
3. Always interpret in context.
4. Always interpret Scripture with Scripture.

**G. Meditation**

1. Now go back to the passage and slowly read it.
2. Turn it over and over, think about it, and preach it to yourself.
3. Pray, asking God to illumine it to you.

## H. Application

1. Apply it's truths to yourself.
2. Ask yourself honest questions: (examples, not exhaustive)
  - "What does this passage say to me (not to those I am going to teach)?"
  - "Are there any truths I should believe afresh?"
  - "What should I do if I believe it afresh??"
    - Worship?
    - Repent/Obey?
    - Alter my lifestyle?
    - Change my attitude, outlook, mental state, worldview?
    - Believe more deeply?

## I. Be a Doer Of the Word

**James 1:22** "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

**Luke 8:21** But He (Jesus) answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the Word of God and do it."