

“Understanding the Bible” Lesson 2

Three Steps to Understanding the Bible:

1. Observation: “What does it say?” or “What do I see?” Psalm 119:18
2. Interpretation: “What does it mean?” Psalm 119:34(a)
3. Application: “How can this make a difference in my life?”
Psalm 119:34(b)-35

Observation:

I. Reading

1. Read prayerfully.
 - Inspiration
 - Illumination
2. Read various translations.
3. Read aloud. Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:2
4. Read slowly.
5. Read a paragraph.
6. Read repeatedly
7. Read thoughtfully.
 - a) Approach the text as if you’ve never read it before.
 - b) Observe

II. Seeing

1. See the literary form.
2. Look for the most important words.
3. Look for the verbs.
 - Past, present, future
 - Commands
4. Look for words or ideas that are repeated or emphasized.
5. Pay attention to the connectives.
6. Pay attention to people and pronouns.
7. Pay attention to geographical references.