

AXE ACADEMY

FIELD GUIDE

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

THE 3 D's OF MISINTERPRETATION

It is important that we wrestle with scripture ourselves rather than taking what others say - hook, line, and sinker.

While many different theologians will come to different conclusions when using the same texts and tools, it can be intimidating to try and figure out what the right interpretation of a text is. We must not let this intimidation scare us or overwhelm us from wrestling with the text seriously. We also must acknowledge that while we may not always get it right the first time, it is important that take another step closer to the right interpretation every time we study.

Misinterpretation of scripture is divisive, deadly, and destructive.

Communication, in any form, is never without interpretation.

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,
A worker who does not need to be ashamed,
And who correctly handles the Word of Truth
2 Timothy 2:15*

What Bible verses/passages am I struggling with?

THE TOOLS OF INTERPRETATION

Hermeneutics - *bringing the scripture from the then & there to the here & now*

Good interpretation of Scripture is its plain meaning.

Good revelation of Scripture is practical application.

The text can never mean today what it never meant then.

Before we can bring the text to the here and now, we must first understand what it meant then and there (exegesis).

We must be careful to not read context into Scripture that isn't there (isogesis)

Safety Glasses - *the presupposition, or lens, that we view Scripture through.*

Magnifying Glass - *examining a text closer to learn its entire context*

Level - *placing the text correctly in relation to the verses that surround it*

Clamps - *nailing the text down to understand what kind of text it really is*

Red Paint - *view the text through the finished work of Christ on the cross*

Pliers - *pull out the meaning of the text*

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength

Phil 4:13

Safety Glasses // Presuppositions

“Most people magnify their limitations and focus on their short-comings, but Scripture makes it clear that all things are possible to those who believe. It’s possible to see your dreams fulfilled, to overcome that obstacle, to climb to new heights. . . if God said you can, then you can.” -Today’s Word with Joel and Victoria

Magnifying Glass // Context

Paul is writing while in prison. Paul isn’t written from the Mansfield Reformatory of Shawshank Redemption. Prisoners like Paul were kept in dark, dirty, and solitary cells.

Level // Verses Surrounding

- 11 *I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.*
- 12 *I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*
- 13 ***I can do all this through him who gives me strength.***
- 14 *Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.*
- 15 *Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you and you alone*

Clamps // Identifying the text

Epistle (letter) to the Philippians in Philippi, Greece

Red Paint // What did Jesus Say?

Matthew 6:26-27;33-34

- 26 *Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?*
- 27 *Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?*
- 33 *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*
- 34 *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

Pliers // Pulling Out The Meaning

1) The question is “is Jesus enough?”

Philippians 4:13 is not about achieving, it’s about what happens when we fail. When our dreams fail, is Jesus enough?

2) The verse isn’t about winning, it’s about being content when you lose

3) Jesus is enough in our little and in our much