

THE ADVENTURE OF JOINING GOD IN HIS WORK

Lesson 3-Part A

The Adventure of Interpreting God's Word

Learn and Practice...

- (1) Heart preparation for studying the text
- (2) The four contexts of every text

Sound biblical interpretation should always begin with preparing our hearts and aligning ourselves with God's goals in instructing us from his word.

Heart Preparation—2 Essentials

(1) Align your heart with God's goal—not yours. What is God's goal?

*[T]he **goal** of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*

1 Timothy 1:5

(2) Depend on the Holy Spirit.

*All Scripture is **inspired by God [through the Holy Spirit]** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

*But a natural man does not accept the things of **the Spirit of God**, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. ¹⁶ For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:14-16*

*"I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them at the present time. ¹³ But when He, **the Spirit of truth**, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take from Mine and will disclose it to you. John 16:12-14*

The Four Contexts of Every Text

1. _____ – Examine the passages immediately before & after your text.

Case Study:

"Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished."

The Bible says that if you die,
believing in Christ, you perish!

1 Corinthians 15:18

¹² Now **if** Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But **if** there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and **if** Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, your faith also is in vain. ¹⁵ Moreover, we are even found to *be* false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, **if** in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For **if** the dead are not raised, then not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and **if** Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ **Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.** ¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ only in this life, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ **But the fact is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.**

2. _____

Interpret the passage considering the themes & purpose of the book your text is in

Case Study: The Epistle of 1 John

How can knowing the purpose &
context of a book give me
assurance of my salvation?

John's **purpose** in writing 1 John: "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may **know** that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

John gives 3 "Birthmarks"

A. _____ Christ as the God /Man and confess your sins

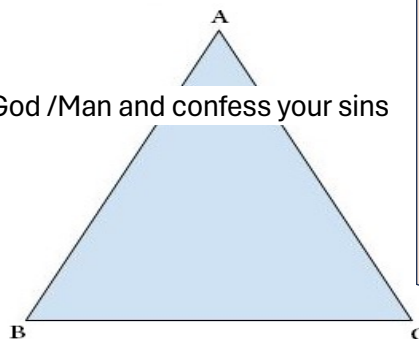
1 John 1:5-10; 2:23-24; 4:15; 5:1

B. _____

John 2:9-11; 3:14-18; 4:7-14, 19-21

C. _____

1 John 2:3-6, 29; 3:7-10



NOTE: John uses present tense verbs which mean on-going, habitual action.

Therefore, he intends to communicate that these 3 "marks" are about **progression not perfection.**

Breakout Exercise:

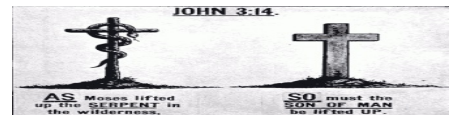
- Share your own experience of assurance of salvation.
- What has helped you gain assurance of your salvation?
- How could you use the above "birthmarks" in discipling others?

3. _____ – Where does the text fit in the flow of biblical revelation?

"God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. Hebrews 1:1

Consider where your passage fits in the unfolding story of redemption and the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Old Testament stories can find resonance and take on fulfilled meaning in the life of Jesus. For example...

New Testament stories echo the Old Testament Exodus narrative by presenting Jesus as a "new Moses" who leads us in a spiritual "exodus" out of bondage to sin and death.



- Jesus' baptism and 40 day temptation in the wilderness mirror Israel's passage through the _____ & _____ years of wandering in the wilderness.
- The _____ given on Mt. Sinai is reseen by the new law, given by Jesus, the new _____, in the Sermon on the _____
- Jesus' death and resurrection as the _____ lamb fulfilled the ultimate liberation foreshadowed in the Exodus.
- The Book of Revelation's depiction of divine judgments on the ungodly, parallels the _____ of Egypt.

4. The Context of the Larger World

(A) The larger context of _____ and _____

Case Study: Matthew 16:13-19

How can knowing the history & context of Caesarea Philippi in Jesus' day aid you in interpretation of Mt. 16:13-19?

"Now when Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you yourselves say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

Q: Why did he bring his inner circle HERE to reveal to them his true and powerful identity?



Jesus:
**"Take heart;
 I have overcome
 the world."**
 John 16:33

Answer: Jesus brought them here b/c he wants to solidify in their already timid minds that He is more powerful than any of the deeply feared "gods" of the culture. He will chase hell back to its gates. They do not have to fear.



Breakout Exercise: Joining God in His Work

Jesus is still building his church and chasing hell back to its gates.

- Discuss: Where do you think God is calling you to join him in this work?
- Pray for each other if there is time.

(B) The larger context of

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic (Daniel), and the New Testament in Greek. There are easy to use tools to help you understand the Bible's Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek words. ^{i ii}

Case Study: Matthew 16: 18

*And I also say to you that you are **Peter**, and upon **this rock** I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.*



How can understanding the Greek words aid your interpretation?

Peter / Greek is *petros* =

a detached stone, boulder, or stone that might be easily moved/ thrown

Rock / Greek is *petra* =

a mass of rock, bedrock, clefts, crags or quarry

NOTE

THIS LESSON IS CONTINUED IN A SEPARATE DOCUMENT;

ADVENTURE LESSON 3-B

ⁱ *Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* by W. E. Vine is a comprehensive dictionary of the original Greek words with the precise meanings for English readers.

ⁱⁱ *The Blue Letter Bible* and *Logos Bible Software* are both useful resources to help you understand the meanings of Hebrew and Greek words of Scripture
