

Application

Application – What should I do about it? How does it work?

This is the critical step. Too much Bible study begins and ends with interpretation. But what difference does it make? Pastor in Washington D.C. ends every message with “so what?”

Your Christian life operates like a two-stroke engine – intake/exhaust phase...

The goal is not to do something to the text but to allow the Holy Spirit to use the text to do something in you. The Spirit of God uses the word of God to transform the people of God to do the will of God to the glory of God.

What does God want me to know?

Know what it says. What is the proper interpretation? Interpretation is singular. Application is plural.

Wrong question - “What does the passage mean to you?”

Right question – “What did the passage mean to the writer?”

We can have different interpretations of a passage but often times there is one “correct” interpretation among many possible interpretations.

Know yourself. Strengths and limitations.

“Take heed to yourself and to your teaching.”

Exalted/distorted opinion of self...Ro. 12:3

Relate. How does this information relate to my personal life?

Home life, thought life, social life, business/professional life, community life, every area of your life.

What does God want me to remember? Meditate and memorize. “You are not what you think you are. What you think, you are.” Linger long in the word. Christian meditation is not the kind of meditation where the goal is to think of nothing. History shows that’s not possible. Sensory deprivation experiments.

Joshua 1:8, This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Ps. 1, “Blessed is the man who walks not in the way of the wicked nor stands...”

Ps. 119:97, “Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.”

How do you make a good soup? Let it simmer for a long time.

When we memorize, we provide fuel for our brains. Today we don’t need to remember anything, so we don’t. Remember when you had phone numbers memorized?

What does God want me to do? Is there...

An example to follow. Mary in Jn. 11.

An error to avoid... “Don’t be surprised at the fiery ordeal...” 1 Pe. 4:12

A promise to claim.

A prayer to repeat. *“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Phil. 1:9-11*

A command to obey.

A condition to meet. (if/then statements) “If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and...”

A verse to memorize.

A challenge to face.

The ultimate goal of Bible study is to keep Jesus on the throne of our lives. All of us make decisions based upon an appeal to authority. “Social distancing” is a practice based the authority of scientists who tell us that it is harder to catch a disease from 6 feet away then 2 feet. Sometimes we appeal to our own authority. “Just follow your heart.” When I study the Bible, I am acknowledging God’s authority over my life. I want to live a Christ-centered life...running with Matt.

The more you understand, the more you apply, the more you apply, the more you want to understand. And the ultimate result is that God is glorified and I am satisfied. I am “like a tree planted by streams of water, yielding fruit in season, not withering under the summer sun, and in everything I do, I will prosper.”

I became a pastor because of my love for the scriptures.