

Bible Study (Exegesis)

Text:

Observation: (What does this text say?) (6 points: 1 point for each item)

1. Ask:

- a. Who is the author?
- b. Who is the author's audience?
- c. What is the occasion for the author writing to the audience?
- d. What is the genre of writing? Does this affect how I read and interpret what is written?

2. Key words and phrases (big words, words that are repeated, etc.): (10 points)

3. Lists: (10 points)

4. Contrasts and comparisons (What is being contrasted or compared? Is there an illustration? What is the situation?): (10 points)

5. Expressions of time (until, then, when, after): (10 points)

6. Terms of conclusion/purpose clauses (wherefore, therefore, for this reason, finally, for, so, so that): (10 points)

What does the text say: (20 points: Don't interpret here. Just restate the passage in your own words.)

Interpretation: (What does this mean? Take all of the observation data into account) (20 points)

1. Remember context rules: look at surrounding verses; take note of the entire book; take note of the entire bible's teaching on any applicable topic.
2. Remember, all Scripture is to be interpreted in the light of Jesus' person and work (Luke 24:27, 44-47). What is the text saying about God? What is the text saying about man? What does the text say about the gospel?
3. Always look for what the whole Bible says about any given topic that the text brings up.
4. Scripture will never contradict Scripture.
5. Never base your tier 1 convictions on obscure passages of Scripture.
6. Interpret literally unless it is obvious it should not be literal. This can be tricky.
7. Look for a single authorial intent of the passage. It is never appropriate to say, "the text means this to me". That puts the objective in the subjective. The Holy Spirit has a purpose through the author's intent in writing this text. (1 Peter 1:19-21)

The text means:

Gospel Connection: (How does this text lead us to see the person and work of Jesus?)

Application: (What does this text require of me?) (2 points: 1 point for each of 2 applications: Give at least two)

1. What does this text teach me to do?
2. Does this text expose any error in my beliefs or my behavior?
3. What is God's instruction to me?
4. When applying Scripture:
 - a. Beware of applying cultural standards rather than biblical standards.
 - b. Beware of attempting to strengthen a legitimate reality by using a Scripture incorrectly. We don't have to misuse the Bible to make facts be more factual.
 - c. Beware of applying Scripture out of prejudice from comfortable or unquestioned presuppositions.

Application _____

Application _____