

UNPACKING THE SCRIPTURES FOR YOURSELF - SESSION #3

Four Steps to “Unpacking” the Scriptures: Asking the right four questions

1. *“What does it say?”* = Seeing all the parts = CONTENT
2. *“What does it mean?”* = Grasping the meaning = MEANING
3. *“What truths is it teaching?”* = Seeing the truth = TRUTH
4. *“How do I respond?”* = Living the truth = RESPONSE

Step Two: “What Does it mean?”

“What meaning was the original author conveying to his original audience?”

Lubeck’s Presuppositions:

1. It is possible for finite humans to understand the meaning of Scripture.
2. Our understanding can increase, yet it will never be exhaustive.
3. There is normally only one correct meaning to any given passage of Scripture.
4. The correct meaning is what the author intended to communicate.
5. Various interpretations are simply hypotheses that attempt to account for what the author has said, and how and why he said it that way.
6. Though every passage has just one meaning, it has many applications.
7. Every passage of Scripture needs to be understood in light of its literary type and genre.
8. Scripture passages are best understood when read in light of their context.
9. Following the Bible means that we emphasize what the text emphasizes, not building man points from the details.
10. We need to evaluate our personal experience in light of Scripture, not the other way around.
11. We should check out our understanding of God’s Word with other believers.
12. Every passage of Scripture has meaning and relevance for all believers.

Practical Guidelines:

1. Understand the flow of thought by outlining the passage.
2. Understand the relationship of parts by moving from general to specific thoughts.
3. Understand the contribution of each detail by relating it back to the larger context.
4. Understand the contribution of the passage to the meta-narrative.