

UNPACKING THE SCRIPTURES FOR YOURSELF - SESSION #2

Four Steps to “Unpacking” the Scriptures: (Three ways to say it)

Asking the right questions:

1. “What does it say?”
2. “What does it mean?”
3. “What truths is it teaching?”
4. “How do I respond?”

Working toward the right goals:

1. Seeing all the parts
2. Grasping the meaning
3. Seeing the truth
4. Living in the truth

Focusing on the right objectives:

1. CONTENT
2. MEANING
3. TRUTH
4. RESPONSE

The Power of the First Two Steps:

“We must give our utmost attention to what God has written to us and how he has chosen to say it. Bible reading should be about receiving what God has given rather than “getting from” it what appeals to us.” (Lubeck, pg. 22)

Throughout the first two steps of this process we must avoid our tendency to interpret and apply what we are reading. At these points we are working to discover what the original authors were communicating to the original audience. In this way we have hope to gain a fuller understanding of all that God is saying through the particular text we are studying. CONTEXT – CONTEXT – CONTEXT

Guidelines for the Third Step: “Principalization”

1. The “truth” must be reflected in the text.
2. The “truth” must stand independent of time, context and culture.
3. The “truth” must be consistent with rest of the Scriptures.

Step Four - More Than Application:

The intent of the biblical authors is to lead their readers to a response – a response to God. The shortcoming of focusing on “applying” the Bible is that it tends to create an expectation that the Bible’s main purpose is to reform our actions. But there is “heart dimension” to responding faithfully to God’s Word as well. Sometimes God and his authors are intending other purposes as they write, such as:

Offer comfort

Instill hope

Pronounce blessing

Demonstrate God’s character

Offer us His promises