



New Song
Community Church

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THE SCHOOL OF

Wesleyan Studies
The Optimism of Grace

wesleyanstudies.org/studies/how-to-study-the-bible

How to Study the Bible, Session #4 ***Dr. Cliff Sanders***

Introductory Remarks:

Review Observation Step:

Grammatical Study to answer Question: What did this mean to the original reader?

Another Area of Observation: History

Determining if something is Historical:

-People

-Places

-Practices

Finding good resources for History:

-International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

-Dictionaries and Encyclopedias (BlueletterBible.com)

-The Life and Times of Jesus The Messiah, Alfred Edersheim

Developing the Sense of “The Important”

We cannot spend time on a passage every time with every mood, every tense, every term, every part of speech, every person, place or practice.

Give attention and time to what appears to be important.

4 Step Method

1. Prayer
2. Observation: What did this mean to The Original Audience?
Grammatical Matters and Historical Matters
3. Interpretation – not mystical, but a practical process
 - a. Process of Interpretation is the Intentional step of asking and answering questions about ONLY two or three observations, Grammatical and Historical
 - b. “Asking and Answering of Questions” means applying three sets of questions to an observation to gain understanding of scripture and thus know God and His ways better
 - c. Practice about term “apostle”

Romans 1:1 (ESV) ¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

OBSERVATION: Paul calls himself “an apostle.”

INTERPRETATION: ask 3 sets of questions

1. Definitional Questions (define) - identify who, what, when, where, how of what we’ve observed
2. Rational Questions (why) – answer “why” this term is here
3. Implicational Questions (Imply or Infer) – what does the use of this term imply or infer?

PRACTICE EXERCISES

TAKEAWAYS