

“All Scripture”

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16; cf. 2 Peter 1:21)

I. The profitability of all Scripture

- A. Is all Scripture _____ profitable?

- B. Aren't there some _____ profitable parts of Scripture?

- C. If all of the Scripture is equally _____, then all of the Scripture must be equally _____ for all Christians at all times.

- D. What is our working definition of profitable?
 - 1. Does profitability depend on how “_____” a Scripture is?
 - 2. Does profitability depend on how “_____” a Scripture is?
 - 3. Does profitability depend on how “_____” a Scripture is?
 - 4. If so...
 - a. Then our reading and teaching of the Bible will always be very _____ - centered.
 - b. _____ of the Bible will _____ be read or taught at all.
 - c. Much of the Bible will be _____ in order to make it meet our modern standards of relevancy.

- E. What is the definition of “profitable” that will effectively include “*all* Scripture”?
 - 1. “Profitable” is “whenever we are enabled to see _____.”
 - 2. We see _____ most clearly in the person of _____.
 - 3. Luke 24:27 – Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

II. The job of the teacher of Scripture.

- ✓ My main job as a teacher in the church is to help God's people rightly *understand* and then *live in light of* the *full counsel of God's Word*.

- A. “God’s Word”
1. “All Scripture” – “_____ Scripture.”
 2. My *goal* is simply to teach the Word *as it stands* and *on its own terms* and let the Word guide me and set my agenda 100%.
- B. “*Understand* God’s Word”
1. I ask: What is the _____ of this Scripture, and then, how can I clearly communicate this to God’s people?
 2. Sometimes this requires more work than other times.
 - a. Background – Cultural / Historical / Geographical
 - b. Context – Literary / Theological / Grammatical
 3. For personal study:
 - a. Translation: English Standard Version (ESV) or New American Standard Bible (NASB)
 - b. Study Bible: ESV Study Bible (Crossway) or NASB Study Bible (Zondervan)
 - c. Cross reference the New Living Translation (NLT).
 4. 2 Timothy 2:15 – Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.
- C. “*Live in light of* God’s Word”
1. Many Christians feel guilty in their reading of God’s Word because they don’t go away from it _____ a certain way or _____ something different.
 2. I think that in many cases, this feeling ultimately comes from our definition of “profitability.”
 3. “Contemporary Significance” versus “Practical Application”.
 4. After clearly communicating the *meaning* of God’s Word, my job is to _____ us to live righteously and faithfully *in light of* that Word.
- D. “*Full counsel of* God’s Word”
1. There are two kinds of **topical** teaching
 - a. Contemporary Issues
 - b. Biblical Themes
 2. Topical teaching can be good and is necessary at times, however:
 - a. Topical teaching tends to approach the Bible as an _____ of random topics.
 - b. In topical teaching, it is considerably more difficult to let the Bible speak to us on its _____.

- c. In topical teaching, almost the *entire* Bible is *necessarily* _____.
 - d. In many churches, the emphasis on topical teaching is ultimately driven by faulty definitions of _____.
3. Expository teaching
- a. Since each *part* of God's Word is ultimately meant to be read and interpreted in light of the surrounding **context**...
 - b. And since each part of God's Word was written within a specific historical and cultural **background**...
 - c. And since *all* of God's Word is equally inspired and equally profitable for all of God's people at all times...
 - d. Then the most faithful and ultimately the most transformational way to teach God's Word – the way that will most fully show the life-changing power and beauty of God's Word *on its own terms* – is to start with the Bible, moving consecutively through a portion of Scripture in its context, looking first for the original *meaning*, and then discerning the contemporary *significance* for us.

Conclusion

- A. What this means for *me* as a teacher of God's Word.
 - 1. The goal of expository teaching is to make the whole of God's Word accessible and beautiful to _____ so that _____ might be fully equipped for righteous living.
 - 2. To the extent that my expository teaching is not doing this, then I'm _____.

- B. What this means for *all of us* as those who sit under the teaching of God's Word.
 - 1. Most Christians today have been *conditioned* for _____ teaching.
 - 2. Why topical versus expository?

- 3. What is the proper attitude of all those who sit under the teaching of God's Word (regardless of what kind it is)?
 - a. _____ submission.
 - b. A joyful eagerness to _____.
 - c. A _____ for God's Word, not based on what we can get out of it, but based on the God it reveals.

Teaching our Children

1. The best way to transfer this message to our children is by “conditioning” them to see the profitability of *all* of Scripture from an early age.
2. We do this by reading to them consecutively through the Bible as a whole and accompanying our reading with study and reflection (by way of gradual introduction).
3. Start with something like the Big Picture Story Bible so that your children (and YOU) can see and fall in love with the big picture of God’s Word. Read this many times!
4. Add something like Egermeier’s Bible Story Book. This Children’s Bible does an excellent job of accurately representing the Bible text without inserting life lessons, moralisms, etc. Help your children to read the smaller parts in light of the big picture. Always point your children to Christ.
5. Don’t hesitate to read to your children straight from the actual Biblical text (The creation account / the story of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus / the description of the New Creation in Revelation 21-22 / etc.).
6. Invest in a Bible Atlas and a Bible Dictionary so that you can explore the text more deeply with your children.
7. Consider purchasing the “Herein Is Love” commentary series for children by Nancy Ganz (So far only Genesis – Leviticus).
8. Move eventually to the New Living Translation, reading through various books of the Bible with your children. Accompany this reading with something like the NIV Compact Bible Commentary (if only as an aid for yourself).
9. Finally, buy your children their own Study Bible in a more “literal” translation and never stop reading, studying, loving, obeying and living always in light of God’s Word together!