

THE KNOW SERIES

Who, What, When, Where, Why, How of the Christian Experience

LESSON # 32

“CAN WE TAKE THE BIBLE LITERALLY?”



OBJECTIVE: People often ask, “Do you take the Bible literally?” The answer is, “Yes.”

But literally, just like you would any other book or conversation. The Bible, like books and conversations uses many different “forms of speech.” As a book, it needs to be approached reasonably and intellectually. As the Bible, the Revelation of God Himself, it needs to be approached spiritually. We will attempt to learn how to integrate the two. We will study Bible study methods, the theories and history of Bible interpretation, as well as general principles to be applied.

(I) WHAT ARE HERMENEUTICS? (the word is Greek and means interpret)

- A. Science of _____
1. Exegesis - proper practice of hermeneutics, taking out and expounding
 2. Icegenesis - Improper practice of hermeneutics, putting in (heresy, false doctrine)

(II) WHO CAN UNDERSTAND SCRIPTURE?

- A. _____
1. With a new heart (I Cor. 2:14)
 2. With a hungry heart (I Pet. 2:2)
 3. With an obedient heart (Ps. 119:90-100)
 4. With a disciplined heart (Matt. 7:7)



Calvary Chapel Student Edition
2022 - 2023

THE KNOW SERIES

Who, What, When, Where, Why, How of the Christian Experience

5. With a teachable heart (Isa. 50:4)
 6. With the aid of the Holy Spirit (John 14:15ff)
- B. Three verses to interpret
1. Ps. 115:17
 2. II Cor. 6:14
 3. I Cor. 15

(III) SOME BASIC _____

- A. The Bible is God's Word.
- B. The Bible _____
- C. The Bible is it's _____
- D. We must respond to the message.
- E. The Holy Spirit is necessary.

(IV) WHO IS _____

- A. C = Context
W = Words
G = Grammar
A = Author's intention
B = Background
S = Scripture interprets Scripture

(V) HOW CAN C. W. GABS HELP US?

- A. _____
1. What is the book written for?
 2. What is the paragraph about?
- B. _____
1. Words have a tendency to evolve in meaning.



THE KNOW SERIES

Who, What, When, Where, Why, How of the Christian Experience

2. Often our definition is not the authors.
3. Some words have many meanings.
 - a. Prov. 14:15, Prevent = come before, anticipate
 - b. Ps. 59:10; 79:8; 88:13
4. K. J. 500 archaic words
 - a. Let = hold back
 - b. Conversion = conduct

C.

1. Know the relationships between words
2. Understand their settings

D. **Author's Intention**

1. What was the writer trying to convey?
2. What prompted the writing?

E.

1. Who was it written to?
2. What were they like?
3. Was anything in their culture strange?
4. Are there things we should know that would make understanding easier?

F.



THE KNOW SERIES

Who, What, When, Where, Why, How of the Christian Experience

1. Scripture is unity
2. Scripture doesn't contradict itself.

(VI) BIBLE

- A. Ordinarily the Bible means what it says.
- B. It does use figurative language.
 1. The sun rising. We know the sun doesn't "rise." The Bible also knows this, but we all say it.
 2. _____ Compare one thing to another. 1 Peter 5:8: "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion."
 3. _____ Uses words that don't 'really' apply to the situation or person, but is used to describe something. Jesus saying He was "The Good Shepherd" is one of these. He wasn't a shepherd and we are not sheep. Yet He IS a shepherd and we ARE sheep.
 4. _____ Describe something using "like" without always saying "like." Jesus said, "You are whitewashed tombs." Allegories and metaphors are closely linked together.
 5. HYPERBOLE means to 'exaggerate something.' Jesus said, "If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off." If you cut off your right hand, you can still sin with the other. But we get the point.
 6. ANTHROPOMORPHISM is when we assign human characteristics to God. "The hand of the Lord" "The eyes of the Lord."
 7. APOCALYPTIC LANGUAGE It might be hard to know whether this language is literal or figurative when it says things like "The moon will turn to blood." Or "The stars will fall from the sky."
- C. It does use symbols.
 1. Who is the woman in Rev. 12:1-6?



THE KNOW SERIES

Who, What, When, Where, Why, How of the Christian Experience

2. Who is the dragon?

D. It does use _____

1. Uses everyday experiences, images, people and places to give hidden or deeper messages. "Let he who has ears to hear, hear."

E. It does use types.

(VII) PARABLES (RULES FOR INTERPRETATION)

A. Determine historical occasion and aim

B. Determine subject matter

C. Determine several parts, with reference to general design.

D. Consider context

E. Look for _____

(VIII) EXERCISE IN TITUS

A. Lessons in Titus

1. Who is it written to?

2. By whom?

3. For what purpose?

4. What action is to be taken?

5. How and why?

6. For whom is instruction included?

7. What applications may be made?



THE KNOW SERIES

Who, What, When, Where, Why, How of the Christian Experience

(IX) SIX HONEST MEN

- A. Who?
- B. What?
- C. Why?
- D. Where?
- E. When?
- F. How?

(X) QUESTIONS TO ASK

- A) Should this passage be taken literally or is using other literary methods?
- B) Is it Poetry?
- C) Is it history?
- D) Should we just go with the plain meaning here, or is there more to it?
- E) Is this prophecy?
- F) Is there apocalyptic language in the passage?
- G) Is this a letter?

