

# Going Deeper in Bible Study

## Week 5 – Interpretation & Application



February 2, 2025

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### Motivation Moment & Prayer

#### Deuteronomy 6:6–9

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

#### Deuteronomy 32:45-47

“And when Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, <sup>46</sup> he said to them, “Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law. <sup>47</sup> For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.”

### INTERPRETATION (Part III) – what does it mean? Review

#### STEP 2: Theological reflection - studying with sound doctrine

- Biblical Theological Reflection – Relating my passage to biblical theology.
  - How does this passage relate to the entire story of Scripture?
  - How does it anticipate or reflect upon the person and work of Christ?

Summary of Biblical Theological Reflection – questions to ask to find how a passage relates to the person and work of Christ

1. How does my passage point forward to Christ’s first coming? How does it anticipate or predict the gospel?
2. How does my passage explain Christ’s person and work? How does my passage reflect upon or apply the gospel?
3. How does my passage anticipate Christ’s return? How does it predict or explain the future consummation of all things, the new heavens and earth in Christ?

(adapted from *Biblical Theology*)

## INTERPRETATION: Summarizing, the BIG idea, and Timeless Truths

### Summarizing

Gather together what you have learned in a summary fashion.

- Write a summary sentence of the main point of the passage.
- Make a list.
- Create a chart of truths.
- Illustrate the passage.
- Write the passage in your own words – write a poem, song, rhyme, or acronym.

### The BIG Idea

- A single sentence statement of the main point of the text.
- All parts of the text support that main point.
- This greatly helps in interpretation and communicating the passage to others.

### Examples from our Colossians Series

- Colossians 1:9-14 – Be filled with the knowledge of God's will in Christ so that you may walk worthily of the Lord.
- Colossians 1:15-23 – Christ is the centerpiece of God's plan of creation and redemption.
- Colossians 3:1-4 – Because you are united with Christ, set your hearts and minds on things above, namely Christ and his kingdom.

### Timeless Truths

A universal principle that applies to all people at all times. It is a concise statement of a universal truth. Characteristics of a timeless truth.

- A timeless truth is biblical (should come from your interpretation work)
- A timeless truth is compatible (agrees with the rest of Scripture and with other people)
- A timeless truth is eternal (can be applied to life in any age/time period)
- A timeless truth is cross-cultural (can be applied to all people)
- A timeless truth is applicable (speaks to the needs, interests, and problems of today)

Howard Hendricks, "The ability to state principles from Scripture is one of the most powerful skills you can develop in terms of application... crafting of useful and

accurate principles requires accurate understanding of the text and perceptive insight into our own context.”

Questions to consider as you are coming up with timeless truths:

#### RESEARCH IT

- What can you discover about the original context in which this passage was written and applied?
- Given that original context, what does the text mean?

#### WRITE IT

- What fundamental, universal truths are presented in this passage?
- Can you state that truth in a simple sentence or two, a statement that anyone could understand?

#### REFLECT ON IT

- What issues in your own culture and your own situation does this truth address?
- What difference does it make? What are the implications of this principle when applied to your life and to the world around you? What changes does it require? What values does it reinforce?

#### Example from our Work Series

True Success - Luke 12:13-21

Main point - True success is not measured by the abundance of our possessions but by our faithfulness to Christ.

#### Timeless Truths

- When we measure our lives according to the abundance of possessions, we are essentially treating our stuff as god.
- Measuring our lives according to our possessions robs us of what truly matters in life – loving God and loving others.
- The faithfulness of true success is only possible if we are redeemed by Christ and our identity and security rest squarely in Christ.

## Growth Project – options

- Summarize Colossians 3:18-4:1 in an interesting or creative way.

### List – 6 Groups of Exhortations

1. Wives – submit to husbands, for it is fitting in the Lord.
2. Husbands – love wives and don't be harsh.
3. Children – obey in everything, for it pleases the Lord.
4. Fathers – Do not provoke children, it will discourage them.
5. Bondservants- obey masters with sincerity, work heartily for the Lord, for you are serving him and will get a reward.
6. Masters – treat servants fairly, for God is your Master.

- Write 3-5 timeless truths for Colossians Chapter 3.

- Create a BIG idea for Colossians 3:12-17.

Let's clothe our lives with Christ honoring virtues and practices.

- Clothe your life with love-infused virtues that cultivate church unity and with thankfulness-filled practices that empower a Christ-honoring life.