

How to Study the Bible
Grace Bible Fellowship Church – Winter 2020

TEACHING NOTES

Week 3: Observation: Content

January 26, 2020 – Further Observations

Graphic: Family Circus

Family Circus



Discussion: Method in Bible study is structured and systematic, thoughtful and thorough

- Aren't "methodical" and "spiritual" mutually exclusive terms?
- No, the Holy Spirit must illuminate the mind in order for understanding to occur (1 Corinthians 2:10-15, Romans 12:1-2)
- Just as we talk about inspiration, this week we need to talk a little about illumination.
- I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- **Studying the Scriptures involves performing specific steps in a specific order to achieve a specific result.**

The purpose of all Bible study is life-change

- As you get to know the Word of God, you get to know the God of the Word
- As you get to know the God of the Bible and thoughtfully apply His Word to your self and your circumstances, your life will change
- You cannot know the God of the Bible without being changed by His Holy Spirit

Review: OIA (see OIA Bookmark)

Observe - "What Does it Say?"

Interpret - "What Does it Mean?"

Apply - "How does it Work?"

Review: Keys to Perceptive Observation:

Content

~ Last Week: who, what, when, where, why, how

~ This Week: flow of passage/outline, literary Forms

Context

~ next week

Discussion: Article 2: Sherlock Holmes – What We Can Learn from a Felt Hat

-- excerpt from *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes - The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle



TEST YOUR AWARENESS

First read the sentence enclosed in the box below

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RE-
SULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIF-
IC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE
EXPERIENCE OF MANY YEARS.

Now count the F's in the sentence. Count them only once and do not go back and count them again.

ANSWER: most say 3, but answer is 6

– we naturally miss "of"



THE CASH REGISTER

<p>Instructions</p> <p>Read the story and answer the statements true, false or unknown.</p> <p>Answers</p> <p>1) ?</p> <p>2) ?</p> <p>3) F</p> <p>4) ?</p> <p>5) ?</p> <p>6) T</p> <p>7) ?</p> <p>8) ?</p> <p>9) ?</p> <p>10) ?</p> <p>11) ?</p>	<p>The Story</p> <p>The businessman had just turned off the lights in the store when a man appeared and demanded money. The owner opened a cash register. The contents of the cash register were scooped up, and the man sped away. A member of the police force was notified promptly.</p> <p>Questions</p> <p>T F ? 1) A man appeared after the owner has turned off his store lights.</p> <p>T F ? 2) The robber was a man.</p> <p>T F ? 3) The man did not demand money.</p> <p>T F ? 4) The man who opened the cash register was the owner.</p> <p>T F ? 5) The store owner scooped up the contents of the cash register and ran away.</p> <p>T F ? 6) Someone opened the cash register.</p> <p>T F ? 7) After the man who demanded the money had scooped up the contents of the cash register, he ran away.</p> <p>T F ? 8) While the cash register contained money, the story does not state how much.</p> <p>T F ? 9) The robber demanded money of the owner.</p> <p>T F ? 10) The story concerns a series of events in which only three persons are referred to: the owner of the store, a man who demanded money, and a member of the police force.</p> <p>T F ? 11) The following events in the story are true: someone demanded money, a cash register was opened, its contents were scooped up, and a man dashed out of the store.</p>
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Steps toward reading with Observation in mind

Read Prayerfully

- Start with Adoration
- Move to Confession
- Continue with Thanksgiving
- Conclude with Supplication (or Petition)

Read Repeatedly

- Use different translations
- Read it in a different setting
- Be careful about becoming too familiar with the text

Read Purposefully

Seek to answer the following questions:

- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?
- Why?
- How?

Read Imaginatively

Read Meditatively

- Meditation in Eastern religions means emptying your mind; in the Bible it means filling your mind with the truth of God's Word
- Mull it over as you go through the rest of the day
- Goes along with Read Repeatedly

See it for the first time

The greatest deterrent to observation is the notion that you've already seen this passage before

Do whatever it takes to open your eyes anew to the passage

Read it aloud

Read it with a new believer

Read it with a child

Read it in a new version

Example:

One Sunday morning the fourth grade Sunday school teacher asked one of her students, "Johnny, what's brown and furry and eats nuts?" Johnny replied, "I know the answer's Jesus, but it sure sounds like a squirrel to me."

Looking for Literary Structures

The Laws of Structure

LAW	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES
Cause and Effect	One event, concept, or action that causes another (key terms: therefore, so, then, as a result)	Mark 11:27-12:44 Romans 1:24-32; 8: 18-30
Climax	A progression of events or ideas that climb to a certain high point before descending	Exodus 40:34-35 2 Sam. 11 Mark 4:35-5:43
Comparison	Two or more elements that are alike or similar (key terms: like, as, too, also)	Psalms. 1:3-4 John 3:8, 12, 11 Hebrews. 5:1-10
Contrast	Two or more elements that are unlike or dissimilar (key terms: but, yet)	Psalms 73 Acts 4:32-5:11 Gal. 5:19-23
Explanation or reason	The presentation of an idea or event followed by its interpretation	Dan. 2, 4, 5, 7-9 Mark 4:13-20 Acts 11:1-18

LAW	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES
Interchange:	When the action, conversation, or concept moves to another, then back again	Gen. 2:4-25; 3 Josh. 12 Matt. 6:1
Introduction & summary	Opening or concluding remarks on a subject or situation	2 Sam. 11-12 Matt. 12 Acts 2
Pivot or hinge	A sudden change in the direction or flow of the context; a minor climax	Gen. 1-11; 12-50 Luke 9:51-19:27
Proportion	Emphasis indicated by the amount of space the writer devotes to a subject	Eph. 5:21-6:4
Purpose	A declaration of the author's intentions	John 20:30-31 Acts 1:8 Titus 1:1
Question & answer	The use of questions or questions and answers	Malachi Mark 11:27-12:44 Luke 11:1-13
Repetition	Terms or phrases used two or more times	Ps. 136 Matt. 5:21-48 Hebrews 11
Specific to general, general to specific	Progression of thought from a single example to a general principle, or vice versa	Matt. 6:1-18 Acts 1:8 James 2

Adapted from an unpublished chart by John Hansel. Used by permission

Today's Study: Ephesians 1:15-23 {Page 2, Line 18 – Page 2, Line 30}

Home Study: Ephesians 2:1-10 {Page 3, Line 31 – Page 3, Line 43}

Read: Article 3 "The Groggle"

Week 3: Ephesians 1:15-23

January 26, 2020 – Prayer

Ephesians 1:15-23 {Page 2, Line 18 – Page 2, Line 30}

{Bickel Charting of Passage}

For this reason, {i.e. because God has done all the above} ever since

I heard about your faith in the *Lord Jesus* and
your love for all the saints,

I have not stopped **giving thanks** for you,
remembering you in **my** prayers.

I keep asking that the *God*
of our *Lord Jesus Christ*,
the glorious *Father*,
may give you the *Spirit* of wisdom and
revelation,
so that you may know *him* better.

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened
in order that you may know

- 1) the *hope* to which *he* has called you
- 2) the riches of *his glorious inheritance* in the saints and
- 3) *his incomparably great power* for us who believe.

That **power** is like the working of

his mighty strength,

which *he exerted in Christ* when

- *he raised him* from the dead and

- *seated him at his right hand* in the heavenly realms,

Far above all rule and authority,

power and dominion, and

every title that can be given,

not only in the present age

but also in the one to come. And

- *God placed all things under his feet* and

- *appointed him to be head over everything*

for the church,

which is *his body*,

the *fullness of him* who fills everything

in every way.

OBSERVATION: Walk Through Passage :

For This Reason: For what Reason ? - because of what God has done!

Prayer: First **praise God**, then **thanks** for people's faith and love, then **petition**

Prayer: **not ceasing**

Prayer: **God needs to give** what He will ask for

What does He ask for ?

- **Wisdom** of revelation ... In **Knowledge** ... of Him
- **Eyes of Heart** enlightened - NOT head knowledge !
- So you would know:

(Note: not asking for new blessing, but to know what already have)

1) HOPE of CALLING

What calling? **Calling on Page 1** -

Belong to, in fellowship with Jesus

To be saints - faithful in the Lord

Called to Freedom

Called to live worthy of calling

To be holy and blameless

To His Kingdom

To : **Christ and Holiness, Freedom and Peace, Suffering and Glory**

2) RICHES of INHERITANCE - indeed Glorious Inheritance

What Inheritance ? **HIS - God's inheritance** in the saints

Calling points back to beginning, this points ahead to

Rich, glorious riches, of inheritance God putting together

3) GREATNESS of POWER - indeed immeasurable power

Call points back, Inheritance ahead - Power in between!

What Power?

Immeasurable power

Power WITHIN US !

(Not out there somewhere, or needing to be gotten, but already in us)

But what Power is it? He has not said yet, so now he elaborates:

Power: According to His great might

Power of God's Great might, shown when he accomplished :

1) Raised Christ from dead (not just conquer death, raised to greater life)

2) Seated Him at God's Right Hand (honor and authority)

- heavenly place
- above all rule and authority, power and dominion
- in this age and the next ! (Not just human universe)

3) Put all things under His feet

4) Made Him head over all things

Why did He do all this ?

For the CHURCH !

- His Body
- Fullness of Him who fills all in all

Church is Fullness of God, Church is why He did all this!

INTERPRETATION:

- Paul sees God, and what He has done, and prays God help us see it to
- Here God brings together Enlightenment & Thought, Knowledge & Faith
- Paul does not look for something new, but the power of us seeing what is Already true in Christ and in us

Application :

- do you KNOW, truly know in your heart, the

HOPE that is in the calling of God

RICHES that are in God's Glorious inheritance in the Saints

POWER, the incomparably great power IN US who believe ?

- God desires for you to see and know these things intimately
- He has done all He has done for the church, so we might know Him like this
- Will you pray this prayer for yourself and others in the room here?

PRAY {either leader or people at table pray for each other in the words of this prayer}