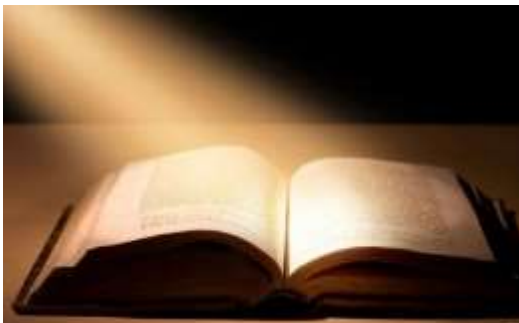
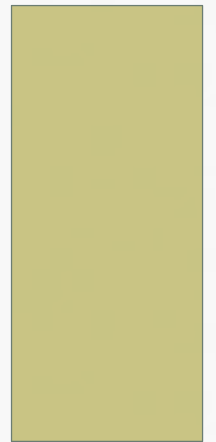


RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAITH, TRADITION & CULTURE



HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

LESSON #1



WHY THIS SERIES IS CRUCIAL

- **How we handle and understand Scripture**
- **How we think about church and its practices**
- **How we interact with culture**
- **How we see ourselves doing the will of God**



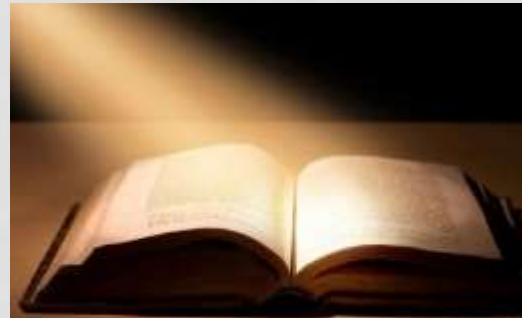
WHY THIS SERIES IS CRUCIAL



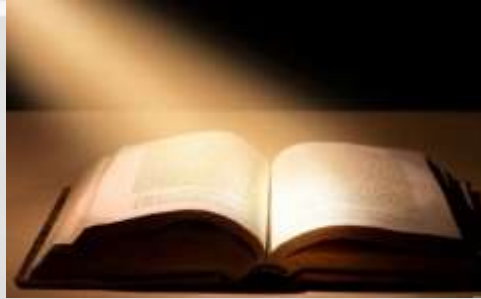
- **How we view others who are different from us religiously**
- **How we view the role of tradition in our faith**
- **Part of the Great Religious Tradition, the Restoration Tradition**

HOW NOT TO STUDY THE BIBLE

- **Proof-texting**
- **Substantiate Traditions**
- **Debate to prove others wrong**
- **“Twist” Scriptures to our own destruction**



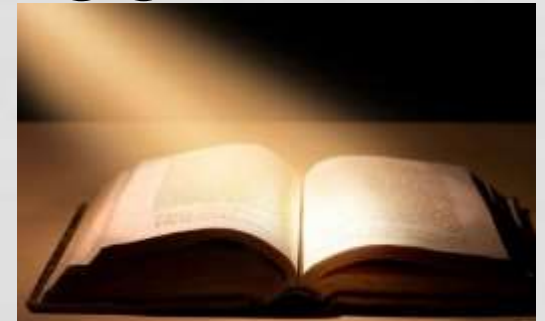
HOW NOT TO STUDY THE BIBLE



- Comment—“says what it means, and it means what it says”
- Establish Bible authority by command, example, and necessary inference
- “Flat reading” of Scripture

HISTORY OF HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

- Thomas Campbell's main concern in *Declaration and Address*--
- A. Campbell's "Sermon on the Law" (1816) and its influence
- A. Campbell's 7 Laws of Interpretation
- J.S. Lamar's *Organon of Scripture*, 1860; *Commentary on Luke* 1877



HISTORY OF HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

- **Campbell's and Lamar opposed to *Mysticism* and *Dogmatism***
- **Medieval interpretation**
- **Contemplative reading**
- **Ignatian method of reading="interior bibliodrama"**

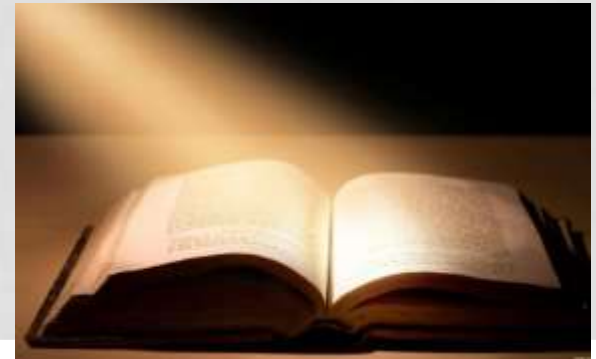
THREE INFLUENTIAL BIBLICAL TEXTS ABUSED



- Nailed to the cross (Col.2:14)
- Rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15)
- Where two or three are gathered together (Mt. 18:20)

PURPOSES FOR STUDYING SCRIPTURE

- **Information for Transformation into image of Christ**
- **Move toward maturity (Eph. 4)**
- **Learning to submit self to God's will**
- **To learn how to manifest the "Mind of Christ"**



PURPOSES FOR STUDYING SCRIPTURE

- **Study to Show yourselves approved, a workman of God...**
- **Equipping us as Servants of God**
- **To Know God**
- **To be Known by God (James' metaphor of the mirror; double-edged sword in Heb. 4)**



INTERPRETIVE PRINCIPLES TO USE:



1. Begins with trust and humility; prayer for the Holy Spirit to give enlightenment & understanding
2. How does this text help me to love God more with all of my heart, mind, soul, and strength?
3. How does this text help me to love my neighbor more as myself?

INTERPRETIVE PRINCIPLES TO USE:



4. How does this text help me to love myself as I ought to more?
5. Author, historical context, situation of the readers, cultural issues going on?
6. Literary Context of text I am studying
7. How does it use quotations from the Old Testament?

INTERPRETIVE PRINCIPLES TO USE:



- 8.** How does my text help me understand the book itself better?
- 9.** Does this text reveal more about God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit?
- 10.** How does this text help me understand God's will better?

INTERPRETIVE PRINCIPLES TO USE:



11. Is there a specific principle that transcends the first century and applies to my own life?

12. Is there a principle at work in this text that needs to be identified and put into practice in my life?

INTERPRETIVE PRINCIPLES TO USE:



13. How does this text help me to better understand and experience my covenant relationships with God and my brothers and sisters in Christ?

14. According Paul (1 Cor. 15) and Jesus (weightier matters of the law), am I able to prioritize what I believe and its application? (Called “first order” beliefs and “second order” beliefs).

CONCLUSION

- **Feel free to add to these “Interpretive principles”**
- **Remember “why” the Bible is inspired...it comes from God to equip me**
- **Remember the power of Scripture to either transform or destroy!**



CONCLUSION

- Humility of heart and pursuit of “Mind of Christ” every time I open my Bible
- Three-fold pursuit in my own Bible study: Spirit of Inquiry, Intellectual Honesty, and Joy of Discovery!

