

Christian Doctrine The Bible (Part 6)

How to Get the Most out of Your Bible

Illumination

Illumination is a work of the Holy Spirit in which He enables believers to understand the truth of the Bible. Unlike unbelievers, who are blind to the truth (II Cor. 4:3-4; Eph. 4:18), we have the Holy Spirit who opens our eyes to the truth (I Cor. 2:11-13). As we come to God's Word, we must first be sure there is no sin in our lives that would hinder the Holy Spirit's work (I Cor. 3:1-3).

Interpretation

Interpretation is a method in which we come to understand what the Bible means. When interpreting a Scripture passage, you want to ask these questions:

1. Who was this written to? It is important to understand what the people were going through, the reason for writing the passage, and how they would have understood what was said. An introduction to the book would help with this.
2. What is the context of this verse? Understanding the point of the whole chapter will help you understand how the passage or verse fits into what is being taught.
3. What do other Bible verses say on the topic? You want to be sure your understanding of the passage is accurate with the rest of the Bible's teaching on that topic.

The key of interpretation is understanding "What the Bible says to the people to whom it was written, when it was written."

Application

Application is taking the meaning of a passage and seeing what it has to say about how we should live. As we study the Bible, we need to ask "What does this passage say about who God is and what He wants me to do?" Applying God's Word to our lives will develop us into the mature Christians God intends us to be (Col. 1:9, 10, 28; Ps. 119:33-34).

Be diligent to present yourself approved unto God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the work of truth. II Tim. 2:15

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