

Week 2 - STR Video: Introduction

Introduction

Review: Did anyone memorize a verse last week? How did it go?

Engage: Describe how you might read a letter from someone close to you. In this study, we will see that principles from reading mail should apply to how we read the Bible.

First, a few disclaimers. Unlike a letter, the Bible was written FOR us, but not TO us. We are reading someone else's mail, but it applies to our lives.

Second, the Bible is primarily about God, not you. This is His story of redeeming people for His glory... The challenge is to understand it so we can apply it to our lives. In the next few weeks we are going to learn how to interpret the Bible correctly so we can make correct applications to our lives.

Greg Koukl on the meaning of Bible verses:

Whether claiming promises during difficult times or citing verses to substantiate my own biblical views, I want to be confident the texts I use as proof of my point actually mean what I think they mean. ¹

¹ Never Read a Bible Verse booklet. Greg Koukl

Questions about the Video

What are some good reasons you should learn how to interpret the Bible correctly?

What makes the Bible sometimes difficult to understand?

Understanding the various Bible translations is important because:

Application

Read 2 Timothy 2:15, a favorite verse about Bible study, in multiple versions. Make sure one of the versions is KJV. You can use the Biblegateway to see the multiple versions as I've included below. Discuss the differences, especially focusing on the parts in the KJV saying "Study" and "rightly dividing". The point of this discussion is to show how word choices can be affected by different interpreters/interpretations.

<https://www.Biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Timothy%20%3A15&version=LSB;ESV;NIV;KJV;NKJV>

2 Timothy 2:15 Legacy Standard Bible	2 Timothy 2:15 English Standard Version	2 Timothy 2:15 New International Version	2 Timothy 2:15 King James Version	2 Timothy 2:15 New King James Version
15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. Read full chapter	15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, ^[a] a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. Read full chapter	15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Read full chapter	15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Read full chapter	15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Read full chapter
	Footnotes a. 2 Timothy 2:15 That is, one approved after being tested			

Bible Reading Tips

Tip: The basic rule: A Bible passage has one meaning, but many applications. In other words, a text cannot mean what it never could have meant to its author or readers. This is why interpretation comes first, then application.

Tip: The aim of good interpretation is not uniqueness; one is not trying to discover what no one else has ever seen before. Rather, it is to get at the “plain meaning of the text,” the author’s intended meaning.²

Tip: The practice of citing a verse without addressing the role it plays in a passage is called “proof-texting.” Do not cherry-pick verses to support preconceived ideas or doctrines without considering their context. This can lead to misrepresenting the text’s intent. Simply “claiming” a verse doesn’t make it our own.

This week: Choose a passage and read it from 3 different reliable translations. How does this help you find the plain meaning of the text? This is often useful when looking at long lists. If you don’t know what verses to look at you could try 2 Timothy 3:1-5. Tools like Biblegateway (<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Tim%203%3A1-5&version=ESV,LSB,NIV>) or Parallel Plus (<https://thebible.org/gt/index>) might be helpful. Recommended versions might include (ESV, LSB, NASB, NIV, KJV, NKJV)

² Fee, Gordon D.; Stuart, Douglas. How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth: Fourth Edition