

August 23 2009
What Does it Mean?
Psalm 119:34

I. Observation

What do I see?

What are the facts?

You take on the role of a biblical detective, looking for clues.

This is the Who, What, When, Where, and Whys of scripture.

II. Interpretation

What does it mean?

A. Questions

If you want to understand a biblical text, you've got to bombard it with questions.

1. Read

Do you put conscious, concentrated effort into your Bible reading?

2. Record

Do you write notes as you read your Bible?

3. Reflect

Do you read and then stop to think about your Bible text?

B. Answers

Can two people look at the same thing and see it differently?

C. Integration

1. Content

There is a direct cause-effect relationship between content and meaning.

2. Context

a. Literary context is the verse is in a paragraph, which is part of a section that is a part of a book, of sixty-six books.

b. Historical context: Where is this taking place?

c. Cultural context is the influence which is put on a section by the times in which it is written.

d. Geographic context is the place it was written.

e. Theological context, what did the author know about God?

3. Comparison

When you compare Scripture the value of a concordance is priceless.

4. Culture

You have to pay attention to the cultural and historical context-to the factors that led to the writing of the passage, the influences they had on the text.

5. Consultation

Consultation involves the use of secondary resources.

a. Concordances are good secondary resources.

b. Bible dictionaries provide loads of helpful information on subjects in the text.

c. Bible handbooks are sort of one-volume encyclopaedias.

d. Atlases; geography is one of the most helpful sciences.

e. Bible commentaries are like having someone really smart sit down next to you and have all the time you need to understand what they know.

So where and when do you want to get started?