

Living by His Book – *How to Understand, Interpret, and Apply the Bible*
Equipping Class Spring 2009
Stonebriar Community Church

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

~ Psalm 119:105

But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

~ James 1:25

4/26 Session 1: Special Lecture by Prof. Howard Hendricks

Handout: Class Schedule

Take home exercise: Read Joshua 1 once a day for seven days

5/3 Session 2: Observation – What Do I See?

Follow up on Joshua 1

Terms: Key words and 5 Wh's

Structure: Grammatical and Structural Markers

Handout: Observation exercises; Bible Timeline and Map; Structural Markers

Take home exercise: Make observations on a paragraph – Colossians 1:3-8

5/10 Session 3: Observation – What Do I See?

Follow up on observations of Colossians 1:3-8

Structure: Literary Form and Genre

Learning to Read

Handout: Comparison and Contrast; Genre list;

Take home exercise: Make observations on a chapter – Colossians 1

**5/17 Session 4: Special Lecture on Reliability of the Bible
by Les Fleetwood**

Follow up on observations of Colossians 1

Handout: Reliability of the Bible

Take home exercise: Make observations on Colossians 1 and title paragraphs

5/31 Session 5: Observation – What Do I See?

Follow up on observations of Colossians 1 paragraph titles

From verse to book and from book to verse

Questions and Answers

Handout: Article on Gnosticism

Take home exercise: Write out 10 questions about Colossians 1 and read Gnosticism article

6/7 Session 6: Interpretation – What Does It Mean?

Follow up on questions about Colossians 1 and Gnosticism

Bridging the Gap between then and now: Language, Historical, Cultural, and Literary Barriers

Principles of Interpretation: Context, Let Scripture interpret Scripture, Prescriptive vs. Descriptive

Pitfalls to Avoid: Misreading, Distorting, and Contradicting the text, subjectivism, relativism, and overconfidence

Handout: Class notes

Take home exercise: Go to www.bible.org and use the resources there to answer some questions from your Colossians 1 list (time: at least a half hour)

6/14 Session 7: Interpretation – What Does It Mean?

Follow up on www.bible.org exercise

Using tools and resources: Computer tools – show them how to use them in class

Figures of speech and how to approach different genres

Understanding the message of the passage

Handout: Figures of speech

Take home exercise: Prepare 3 minute lesson to share in class with 2 other people

6/21 Session 8: Application – What Does It Mean to Me?

Share 3 minute lesson

How does it work for me and others?

Know, Relate, Meditate, and Practice

9 Application Questions

Handout: Application Questions

Resources:

The Bible Knowledge Commentary; Old and New Testament, Edited by John Walvoord and Roy Zuck, Victor Publishing.

Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels, InterVarsity Press.

Dictionary of Paul and His Letters, InterVarsity Press.

Dictionary of the Later New Testament & Its Development, InterVarsity Press.

The Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament and New Testament, Craig Keener, InterVarsity Press.

Online: www.bible.org, www.e-sword.com, www.biblegateway.com

Software: www.e-sword.com (free) and Logos Bible Software at www.logos.com

