

Discerning Truth in a Post Christian Culture

How to Analyze a Verse(s) for Understanding

Lesson 7, May 27, 2018

Last week we considered how to do a word study: discovering the true meaning of a word and how it is used in the Bible or portion thereof. Today we will expand the lesson to learn how to analyze a verse or passage of Scripture with many words.

Understanding the individual words of a verse is essential to understanding the meaning of the whole verse, but words make up sentences which communicate thoughts and meaning. In the Bible we have what is called in philosophy *propositional revelation*; in this case a proposition is *a sentence that affirms something which is true*.

The meaning of a verse or passage can most simply be analyzed by interrogating the passage; that is, asking certain questions of the verse or sentence. Those questions are Who, What, When, Where, How, & Why. These questions can be applied to any passage in the Bible and will help us to understand what it means for us; what God will do, what we should do, what happened in history and why.

Let's use Romans 6:12-14 as an example passage

¹² So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh--

¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

WHO: _____

WHAT: _____

WHEN: _____

WHERE: _____

HOW: _____

WHY: _____

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