



EBC 2019 FALL BIBLE STUDY



Rev. Christopher L Nichols, Pastor

FALL 2019 SESSION

I. New Testament Survey

- Philemon, Colossians, Titus, Jude
- Instructors:
- Rev. Pace
- Dea. Persons
- Minister Brewer

II. Biblical Leadership *

- Instructor: Pastor Nichols

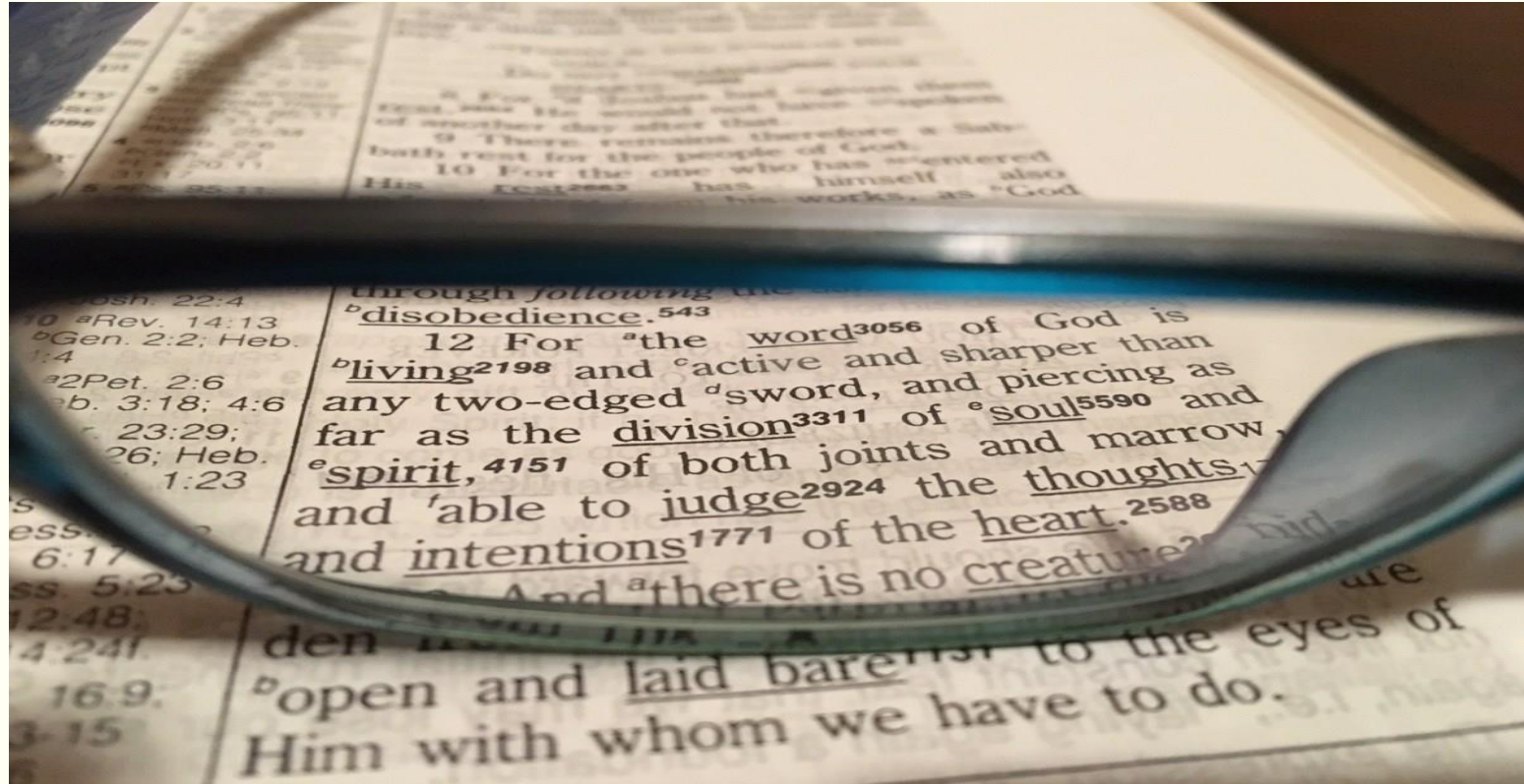
III. The Ministry of the Usher *

- Instructor: Iris Brittingham & N. Wiggins

IV. The Ministry of Music *

- Nathan McFall
- Elder Townsend

How Do I Study the Bible for Myself?



The Word is not to be just “Learned”, The Word is to be “Lived” !

Begin with prayer



- When you study the Bible, you have the opportunity to learn directly through God's Spirit. When we approach God's Word, we should ask God to lead us and guide us in our study. We humble ourselves, recognizing that it is only through God's grace and His Spirit that we will discover what God says in His Word and how it should impact our life.



OBSERVATION

What would we do if we wanted to study Ephesians 6:12-13

Ask the “5 W’s and an H”

- As you study any passage of Scripture, train yourself to constantly ask: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? These questions are the building blocks of precise observation, which is essential for accurate interpretation.



Why did Paul write to the Ephesians?

- In the Epistle to the Romans, the author writes from the point of view of the demonstration of the righteousness of God—his covenant faithfulness and saving justice—in the gospel; the author of Ephesians writes from the perspective of union with Christ, who is the head of the true church.



Who wrote the book?

- For a brief time at the end of his second missionary journey, and then for more than two years on his third missionary journey, Paul ministered to the church at Ephesus (Acts 18:18–21; 19:1–41). During his time in this city that housed the famous temple to the Greek goddess Artemis, Paul saw many converted to faith in Jesus Christ and many others who opposed his preaching in the synagogues and homes. One prominent silversmith, Demetrius, who made implements for the worship of Artemis, found his business suffering greatly because people were converting to Christianity. The ensuing near-riot led Paul to leave the city, but only after the apostle had done much to stabilize and grow the Christian community there.



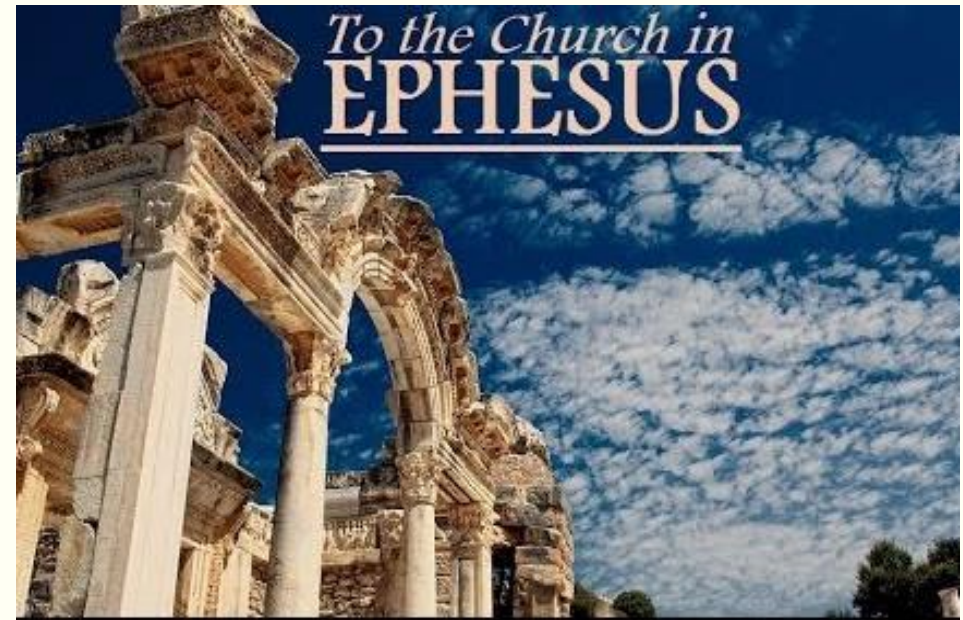
Where are we?

- Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians sometime in AD 60–61, around the same time he wrote Colossians and Philemon, as he sent all three letters by the hand of Tychicus, accompanied by Onesimus (Ephesians 6:21; Colossians 4:7–9; Philemon 1:10–12). It was during this time that Paul sat in Rome undergoing his first Roman imprisonment (Ephesians 3:1; 4:1), making Ephesians one of the four epistles commonly known as the Prison Epistles. The others are Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.



Why is Ephesians so important?

- Second Corinthians and Galatians abound with personal touches from Paul, either about his own life or that of the recipients. Ephesians, on the other hand, stands at the opposite end of the spectrum as one of Paul's most formal letters. While Galatians offers instructions particularly important for those churches overrun with legalism, Ephesians deals with topics at the very core of what it means to be a Christian—both in faith and in practice—regardless of any particular problem in the community.



What's the big idea?

- Paul divided his letter to the Ephesians into two clear segments; applying the truths of the first makes possible the actions and lifestyle of the second. Paul spent the first three chapters of the letter discussing God's creation of a holy community by His gift of grace in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The members of this community have been chosen by God through the work of Christ, adopted as sons and daughters of God, and brought near to the Father through faith in His Son. All people with this faith—Jews and Gentiles alike—were dead in their transgressions and sins but have been made alive because of the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- While Paul was not responding to a particular theological or moral problem, he wanted to protect against future problems by encouraging the Ephesians to mature in their faith. So after laying out profound theological truths in the first half of the book, Paul made his purpose clear: he expected that this community of faith would walk in accordance with its heavenly calling (Ephesians 4:1). As a result of the theological realities Christians accept by their faith in God, several practices should follow in their relationships within the church, in the home, and in the world.

Mark key words and phrases

another, for ^aGOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

6 Therefore ^ahumble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that ^{He} may exalt you at the proper time,

7 casting all your ^aanxiety on ^{Him}, because ^{He} cares for you.

8 ^aBe of sober *spirit*, ^bbe on the alert. Your adversary, ^cthe devil, prowls around like a roaring ^dlion, seeking someone to devour.

9 ^{1a}But resist ^{him}, ^bfirm in *your* faith, knowing that ^cthe same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your ²brethren who are in the world

10 After you have suffered ^afor a little while, the ^bGod of all grace, ^{who} ^ccalled you to ^{His} ^deternal glory in ^{Christ}, will ^{himself} ^eperfect, ^fconfirm, strengthen *and* establish you.

11 ^aTo ^{Him} ^be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

12 Through ^aSilvanus, our faithful brother ¹(for so I regard *him*), ^bI have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is ^cthe true grace of ^{God}. ^aStand firm in it!

13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and *so does* my son, ^aMark.

14 ^aGreet one another with a kiss of love.

^bPeace be to you all who are in ^{Christ}.

- A key word is one that is essential to the text. Key words and phrases are repeated in order to convey the author's point or purpose for writing. For example, notice that some form of the word suffering is used three times in 1 Peter 5. Key words can be marked using symbols, colors, or a combination of the two.

Make lists

- Making lists can be one of the most enlightening things you do as you study. Lists reveal truths and highlight important concepts. 1 Peter 5:2-3, for example, contains a simple list regarding the role of the elder, shown by numbering the items in the text. It is also helpful to make a list of what you learn about each keyword or person you mark.

Chapter 5 Theme

5 ^aTherefore, I exhort the elders among you, as ^{your} ^bfellow elder and ^cwitness of the sufferings of Christ, and a ^dpartaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,

2 shepherd ^athe flock of God among you, exercising oversight ^bnot under compulsion, but ^cvoluntarily, according to ^dthe will of God; and ^enot for sordid gain, but ^fwith eagerness;

3 ^anor yet as ^blording it over ^cthose allotted to your charge, but ^dproving to be ^eexamples to the flock.

4 And when the Chief ^aShepherd appears, you will receive the ^bunfading ^ccrown of glory.

5 ^aYou younger men, likewise, ^bbe subject to ^{your} elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with ^chumility toward one another, for ^dGOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

6 Therefore ^ahumble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

7 casting all your ^aanxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

8 ^aBe of sober *spirit*, ^bbe on the alert. Your adversary, ^cthe devil, prowls around like a roaring ^dlion, seeking

Peter

1. exhorts the elders, v.1

2. a fellow elder, v.1

3. witness of Christ's sufferings, v.1

4. partaker of the glory to be revealed, v.1

5. regards Silvanus a faithful brother, v.12

6. has written to them briefly, v.12

7. calls Mark his son, v.13

Watch for contrasts and comparisons

4 And when the Chief ^aShepherd appears, you will receive the ^bunfading ^{1c}crown of glory.

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8 ^aBe of sober *spirit*, ^bbe on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

9 ^{1a}But resist him, ^bfirm in *your* faith, knowing that ^cthe same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your ²brethren who are in the world.

- Contrasts and comparisons paint word pictures to make it easier to remember what you've learned. For example, Peter compares the devil to a roaring lion in verse 8. Peter also contrasts God's attitude toward the proud and the humble.

Note expressions of time

- The relationship of events in time often shed light on the true meaning of the text. Marking “time” will help you see the sequence or timing of events and lead to accurate interpretation of Scriptures.

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9 ^{1a}But resist him, ^bfirm in the same experiences of suffering with your ²brethren who are in the

10 After you have suffered all grace, who ^ccalled you to will Himself ^eperfect, ^fconfirms you.

11 ^aTo Him ^bbe dominion for

Mark terms of conclusion

and all of you, clothe yourselves with one another, for ^aGOD IS OPPOSED TO THE HUMBLE.

6 Therefore ^ahumble yourselves before God, that He may exalt you

7 casting all your ^aanxiety on Him, for He cares for you.

8 ^aBe sober *spirit*, ^bbe alert, for the devil prowls around

- Words such as therefore, thus and for this reason indicate that a conclusion or summary is being made. You may want to underline them in the text.

A man with glasses and a dark shirt is seated, gesturing with his hands while speaking. He is in a room with wood-paneled walls, a window with blinds, and framed pictures. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the window. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Interpretation: What does the text mean?

While observation leads to an accurate understanding of what the Word of God says, interpretation goes a step further and helps you understand what it means.

Remember that context rules



- The word “context” means that which goes with the text. If you lay the solid foundation of observation, you will be prepared to consider each verse in light of the surrounding verses, the book in which it is found, and the entire Word of God. As you study, ask yourself: Is my interpretation of this passage of Scripture consistent with the theme, purpose, and structure of the book in which it is found? Is it consistent with other Scripture about the same subject? Am I considering the historic and cultural context? Never take a Scripture out of its context to make it say what you want it to say. Discover what the author is saying; don’t add to his meaning.

Always seek the full counsel of the Word of God.

- When you know God's Word thoroughly, you will not accept a teaching simply because someone has used one or two isolated verses to support it. Those verses may have been taken out of context or other scriptures overlooked or ignored that would have led to a different understanding. As you read the Bible more extensively, you will be able to discern whether a teaching is biblical or not. Saturate yourself in the Word of God; it is your safeguard against wrong doctrine.



Remember that Scripture will never contradict Scripture



- The best interpretation of Scripture is Scripture. Remember, all Scripture is inspired by God. It is God breathed; therefore, Scripture will never contradict itself. Sometimes, however, you may find it difficult to reconcile two seemingly contradictory truths taught in Scripture, such as the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man. Don't take a teaching to an extreme that God doesn't. Simply humble your heart in faith and believe what God says, even if you can't fully understand or reconcile it at the moment.

Don't base your convictions on an obscure passage of scripture

- An obscure passage is one in which the meaning is not easily understood. Because they are difficult to understand they should not be used as a basis for establishing doctrine.



Interpret Scripture literally



- The Bible is not a book of mysticism. God spoke to us that we might know truth. Therefore, take away the Word of God at face value – in it's natural, normal sense. Look first for the clear teaching of Scripture, not a hidden meaning.

Look for the single meaning of the passage

- Always try to understand what the author had in mind when you interpret a portion of the Bible. Don't twist verses to support a meaning that is not clearly taught. Unless the author indicates that there is another meaning to what he says, let the passage speak for itself.





The Word is not to be just “Learned”, The Word is to be “Lived” !

How do I apply this?

- The book of Ephesians hits on a wide range of moral and ethical behaviors, designed to ensure believers are living up to our heavenly calling. As we continue in our faith from day to day, month to month, and year to year, the temptation to get comfortable will always exist. However, Paul presented the gift of God in Christ and the benefits we receive so clearly that we cannot help but ask ourselves if our lives reflect that reality as they should.
- How have you grown in your Christian life since you came to faith in Jesus Christ? The latter half of Ephesians makes clear that spiritual growth occurs primarily in community with others, iron sharpening iron (Proverbs 27:17). Your Christian “walk” (in other words, your daily life) is to be characterized by unity, holiness, love, wisdom, and perseverance in spiritual warfare.
- Maturity yields benefits in believers’ moral lives, but it extends far beyond that as well. Increased maturity benefits the community at large, leading us as Christians to present a more consistent witness to the working of God in our lives as well as protecting us from the harmful divisions and quarrels that have plagued so many communities throughout history.

Application: the critical part of the inductive process:

- A. Flows out of thorough observation
- B. Flows out of correct interpretation.
- C. Begins with belief,
- D. Results in a process of a transformed life of purposeful behavior, attitude and relationships.



Application: answers the questions:

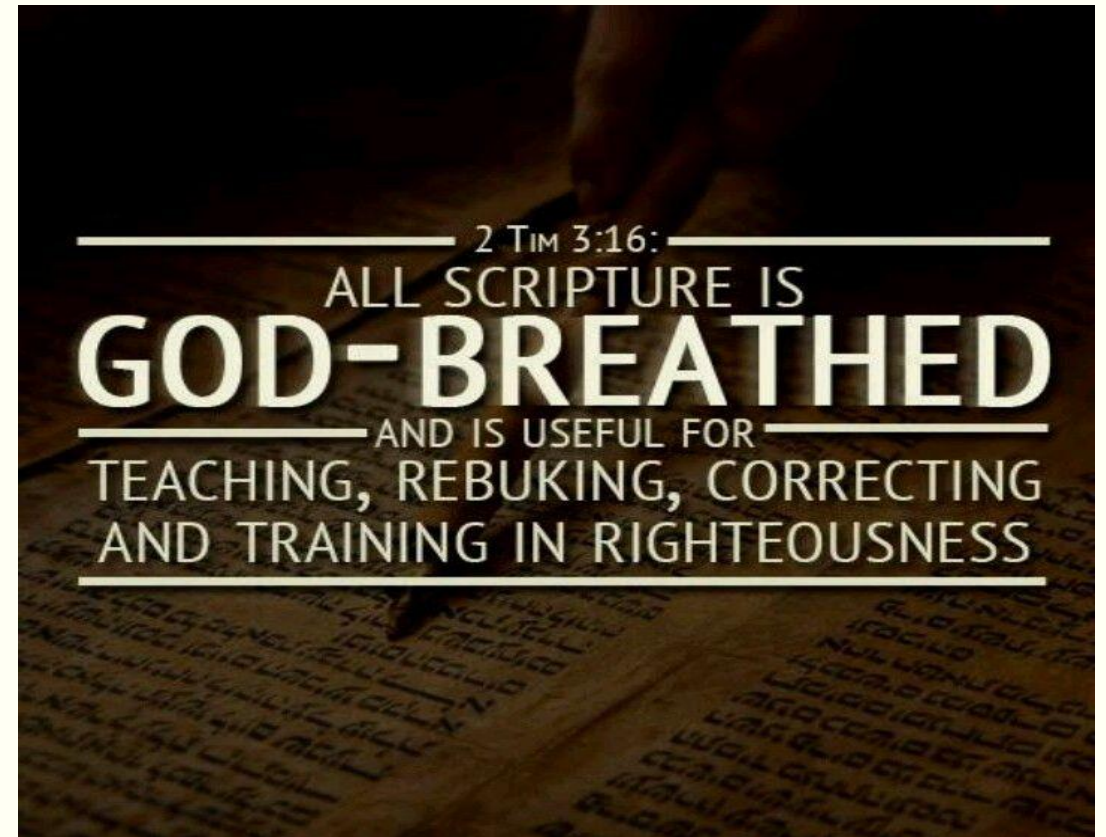
- A. How does the meaning of this passage apply to me?
- B. What truths am I to embrace, believe, or order my life by?
- C. What changes should I make in my belief, in my life?

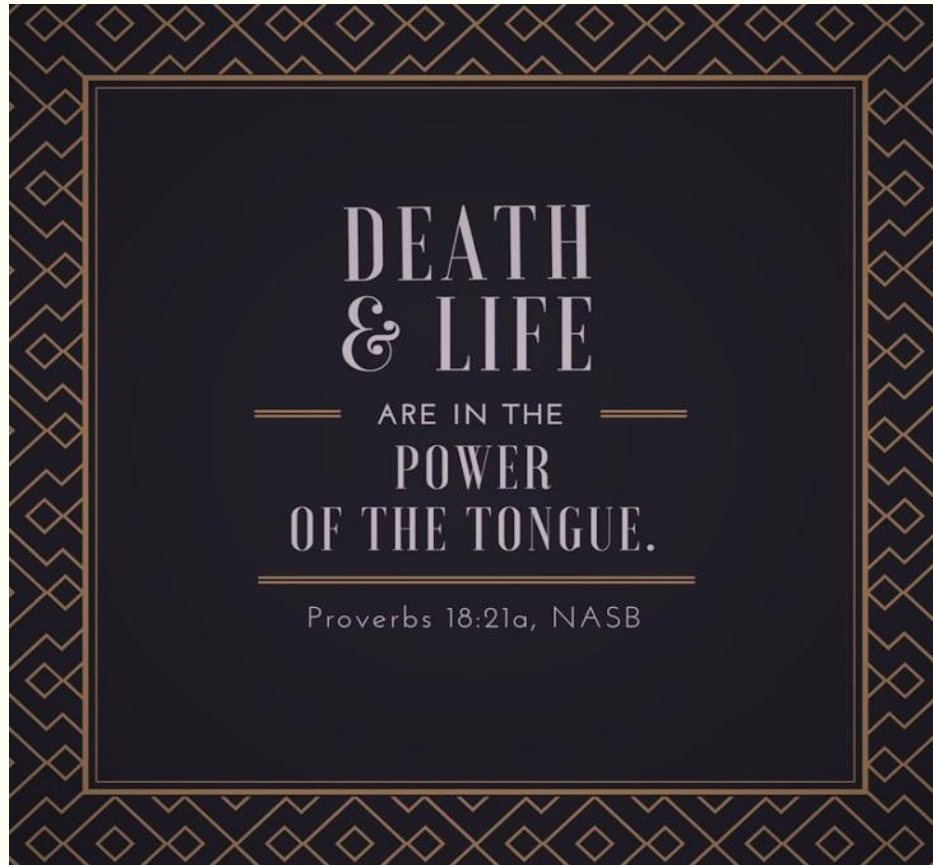
No matter how much you know about God's Word, If you don't apply what you learn, Scripture will never benefit your life.



What is scripture good for? How is it to be applied? (II Timothy 3:16-17)

- A. For Teaching
- B. For Reproof
- C. For Correction
- D. For Training in Righteousness
- E. So the man of God may be Adequate
- F. So the man of God can be equipped for every good work





When Applying Scripture, beware of the following:

- A. Applying Cultural Standards rather than biblical standards
- B. Attempting to strengthen a legitimate truth by using a scripture incorrectly
- C. Applying Scripture out of prejudice from past training or teaching
- D. Remaining the same! The purpose of your observation, interpretation is to make the application to your life.

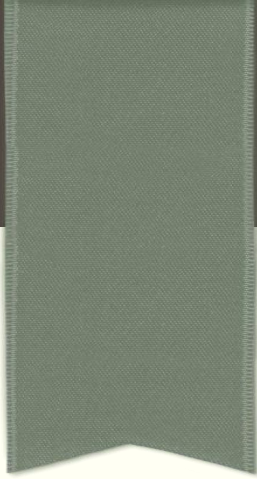
God's goal for us is that we become like Christ! Our goal in Application is to understand how a passage relates to our lives today and how we can practically respond to it. Aim at making applications personal and concrete ("I" statements).

Helpful Hints:

- Is there a Sin to forsake?
- Is there a Promise to believe?
- Is there an Example to follow?
- Is there a Command to obey?
- Is there an Action to obey?
- Write down a practical application!

Respond to the Lord by praying the passage back to Him. Pray it for yourself and family and whomever the Lord brings to mind! Thank the Holy Spirit for teaching you!





QUESTIONS



CONCLUSION
