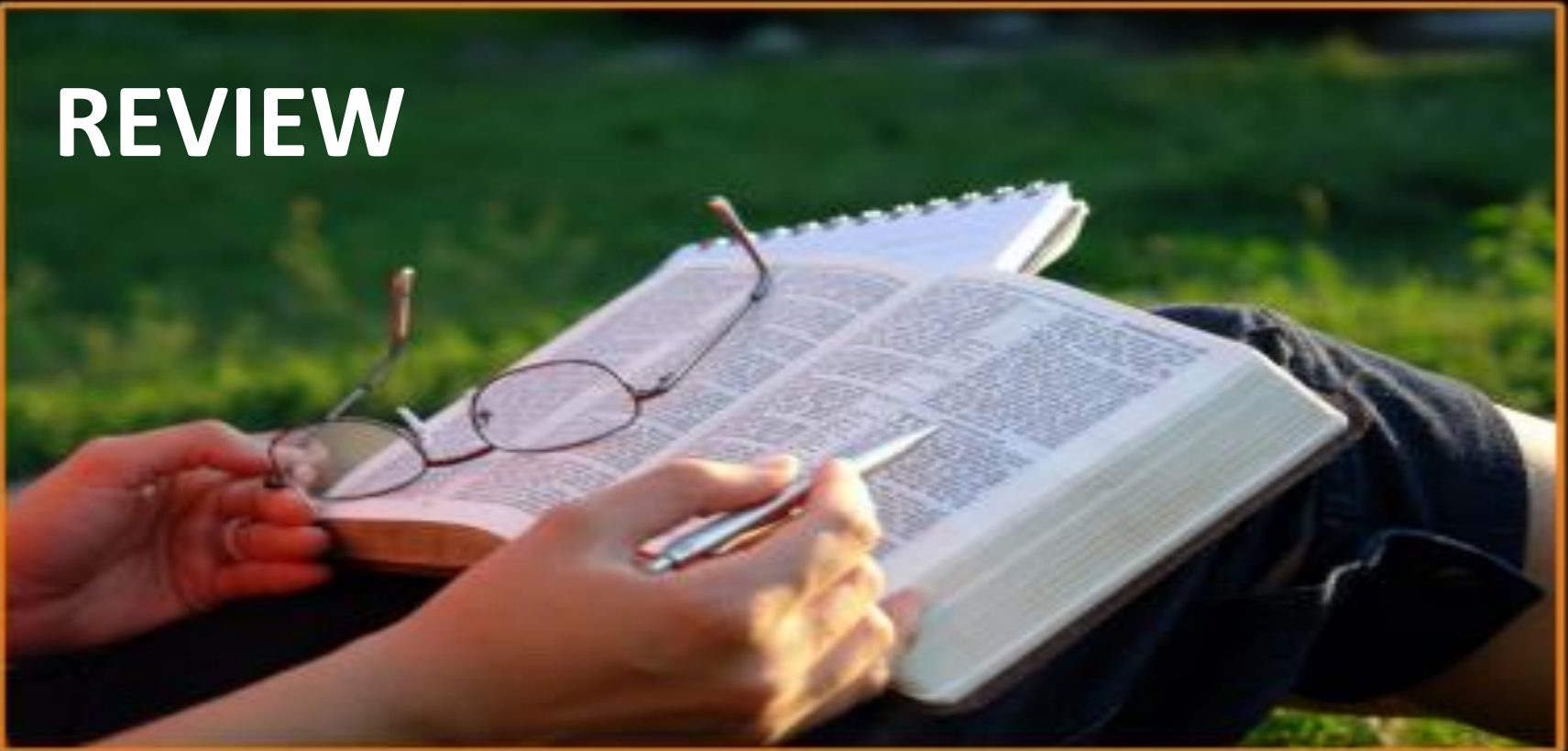


How to Understand the Bible

REVIEW



(2 Tim 3:16-17) Every Scripture is *Inspired by God*
(John 16:13) Apostles are taught *by the Holy Spirit*
(2 Pet 1:21) Men moved by the *HS spoke from God*

The Bible Was Meant to be *Understood*.

(Eph 5:17) Do Not be foolish, *but Understand* what the will of the Lord is.

(Eph 3:4) When you read *you can perceive my insight* into the mystery of Christ.

(Rev 2:7) He who has an ear, *let him hear* what the Spirit says to the churches.



The Bible is *Challenging*.
Not impossible
(2 Pet 3:16)

We Must Follow NT Commands & Examples

(2 Thes 3:6-7) Follow *our example*, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you.



(Phil 4:9) What you *have learned and received and heard and seen* in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

(1 Cor 11:1) "Be *imitators* of me, just as I also am of Christ"

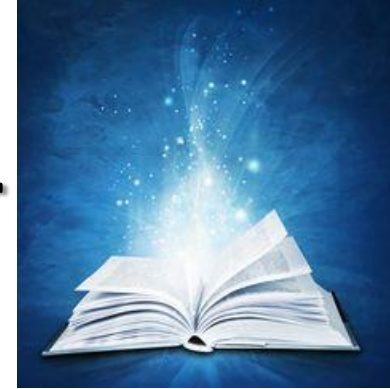
Parents, YOU must set the example for your children to follow.

But is EVERYTHING in the NT Binding for **US**?

(John 13:5) He began to wash the disciples feet.

(Luke 10:1) Jesus sent them out 2 & 2.

(Luke 9:3) Take nothing for your journey, neither a staff, nor a bag, nor bread, nor money; not even two tunics apiece.



(Acts 3:1) Peter & John [went] up to the Temple at 3 in the afternoon.

(Acts 6:3) Choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom.

(Acts 16:25) Singing & praying in jail at midnight.

(Acts 18:18) In Cenchrea Paul had his hair cut.. he was keeping a vow.

How to Determine What Is *Binding / Required*

1. Does it Have Apostolic Approval?

And Is the example Consistent—or done variously?

Sun Communion: *approved example (Acts 20:7)*

Preach on Lord's Day: *till midnight? (Acts 20:7)*

Giving on Sunday: *For benevolence of saints.
(1 Cor 16:1-2)*

Singing with believers: *in worship. (Mat 26:30)
(Eph 5:19) Sing songs, hymns, spiritual songs*

Praying with saints: *(Acts 6:6; 12:12; 21:5)*

How to Determine What Is *Binding / Required*

2. Principle of Harmony

An interpretation can't violate other known scriptures. (Ps 119:160)

Peter's lying can't be used to justify sin. (Col 3:9; Eph 4:25)

(Mat 26:74) He began to call down curses on himself & swear, "*I do not know the man.*" NIV

Apostles' suggested revenge (Rom 12:19)

(Lk 9:54) Asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to *destroy them*?"

Judas suicide doesn't condone suicides. (1 Cor 10:31)

(Matt 27:5) He [Judas] went away & *hanged himself.*"

How to Determine What Is *Binding / Required*

3. Principle of Context

An interpretation can't violate the *immediate context*.

Mat 24:4-34 Must apply to **Jesus' own generation** see (v33-34). (*Jesus disciples identified 4, 6, 9, 15f*)

Isa 14:12 -14 Lucifer (KJV) **cannot apply to Satan** (Isa 14:4). (*context says "The king of Babylon"*)

Acts 8:14-18 Miraculous ability **thru apostles' hands**— (v.17-18). (*No living apostles now.*)

Gal 6:1-10 Context addresses **individual action**, not churches— . (*v.1-8 is all individuals—does v.10 switch to churches?*)

How to Determine What Is *Binding / Required*

4. Principle of Competence

The scripture Given Must Support *the Conclusion*.

Mat 19:14 Cannot be used to *support infant baptism*. Not a word about baptism found here!

Acts 2:38 *Baptism cannot argue* for forgiveness of **National Sin**— **Each** of them was to be baptized— no word of national sin.

1 Cor 14:21 *Strange tongues* cannot apply to **Angelic Language**— Assyrians conquered Israel (Isa 10:24). They used (Isa 28:11) Stammering lips; (Isa 33:19) “*A fierce people, unintelligible speech which no one comprehends, of a stammering tongue ..*”

How to Determine What Is *Binding For Us*

5. Principle of Universal Application

Can people *Anywhere in the World* Follow it?

HINT: Ask Who is speaking, To Whom and Why.

Mat 3:6 NOT everyone can be *baptized in Jordan*.

2 Tim 4:13 We CAN'T find *the parchments in Troas*.

John 14:26 ONLY Apostles had MIRACULOUS Holy Spirit INSPIRED MEMORIES.

John 8:24b Taught people CAN BELIEVE in Jesus *if they want to*.

Acts 2:38 All people CAN REPENT & be BAPTIZED.

How to Determine What Is *Binding For Us*

6. Principle of Materiality / Essentiality

Is something Essential in carrying out a command or just Incidental? *Does it affect Subject, Action or Purpose?*

Acts 20:8 UPPER ROOM is Not essential for Lord's Supper.

Luke 22:35 WEARING SANDALS Is Not essential to preach.

Acts 8:38 WATER Is essential to Christian baptism.

Acts 16:13, 15 Baptism in RUNNING water NOT essential.

Mark 16:16 One BELIEVING IS essential for baptism.

Eph 5:19 In our worship SINGING IS essential—
“playing mechanical instruments” isn't.

Ask: Does it affect the *Subject, Action or the Purpose*?

How to Understand the Bible



**BE A DISCIPLE (a real student), and
GO MAKE DISCIPLES (Mt 28:18-20)**