



————— ∞ *Week Four* ∞ —————

Message Title: The Bible: The deep end of the pool!

This weeks memory challenge: **Luke 24:45** *Then he (Jesus) opened their minds to understand the Scriptures*

————— ∞ *Message Notes* ∞ —————

‡ The Question! If we confess faith in what the Bible *says*, how do we come to understand what the Bible MEANS?

‡ Dispelling a few myths

- Understanding Scripture is SIMPLE
1 Peter 3:18-20
- The meaning of Scripture is always as it APPEARS, in English, at the verse level.
Matthew 5:29
- There are no *apparent* CONTRADICTIONS in Scripture. (Note the *italics*!)
Galatians 2:16, Romans 3:20, James 2:24
- I'm not equipped to engage scripture on my own.

‡ The last question: “What does a passage of scripture mean to ME?”

The *first* question: “What does a passage of scripture MEAN?”

Reality! To understand and apply what scripture means NOW, we must first engage in the sometimes hard, and always essential, work of HONEST interpretation.

‡ A good place to start: “What does this scripture *say*?”

- Have a ‘go to’ Bible you always use. Take notes, underline, make it yours!
- *Read in several different translations.* A good tool is Biblegateway.com. A good range of translation is KJV, NASB, ESV, NIV. Avoid paraphrase for primary study.
- Are there any words or phrases you don’t understand?
- If you are in the New Testament, are there any quotes of O.T. passages?

† Next Step: “What did this passage mean to the original audience?” This brings us to the essential question of CONTEXT.

- Context of adjacent scripture. Paragraph, chapter, book. Find the entire discussion.
- Context of audience. Genre of writing? Who was intended hearer? Does the author have any overarching purpose in writing? Specific dynamic being addressed?
- Context of culture. Are there considerations of 1st century culture that need to be considered for an appropriate or fuller meaning of the text?
- Context of all of scripture. What is the ‘full testimony’ of God’s Word with the topic at hand?
- Context of Old and New Covenant. *2 Corinthians 3:4-11*

† Application: Getting to the principle at hand.

† A few more key principles

- The posture of my heart. Am I seeking to Receive or Rationalize?
- Seeing the forest and the trees!
- Within context, look for the most natural, simple meaning.
- Dialing back the pressure. Remember that scripture is a *gift*.
- From reading to relationship: A word about journaling
 - ☞ When am I reading? ☞ What am I reading? ☞ Observations
 - ☞ Questions ☞ Gratitude ☞ Application ☞ Prayer

† The single essential

Luke 24:44-45, John 14:26