



Part 2: The Bible and You

Class 8: Applying the Bible

Objective: *To understand how and when to apply the Bible contextually, culturally, and personally.*

Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. (1 Corinthians 10:11)



Question 1: What is application and why is it important?

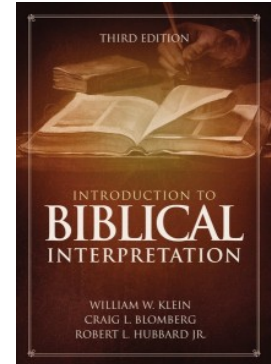
- **Definition:** Application is appropriately connecting the _____ of a biblical document to _____ audiences in ways that impact their concepts, _____, and emotions.
- Proper application must be faithful to the _____ and also take into account modern times, cultures, and individuals.
- *Application* is important because
 - It assumes the Bible's _____ for life. (The “So what?”)
 - It puts into practice our _____ about the Bible. (1 Thess 2:13)
 - The Bible tells us to _____ what we hear. (Rom 2:13; Jas 1:22)
 - Responding rightly to the Bible leads to _____ in faith. (2 Tim 3:16)
- *Proper application* is important because
 - It honors the text's _____ meaning.
 - It guards against false _____.
 - It avoids _____ interpretation.
- ◆ **Key takeaway:** *Applying the Bible properly is the end goal of interpreting the Bible properly!*

Question 2: How do we determine the application of a passage?

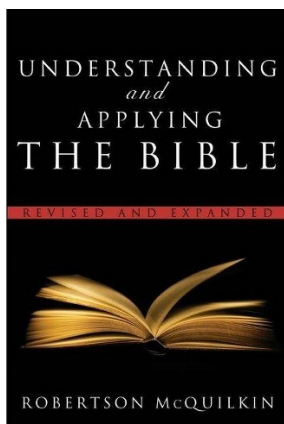
The Bible was written to others—but speaks to you. The Bible is about God—but draws you in. Your challenge is always to reapply Scripture afresh, because God’s purpose is always to rescript your life. - *David Powlison*

4 Helpful Steps in Applying the Bible from *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*

- 1. Determine the _____ application.
 - Is there a command to obey?
 - Is there an example to follow or avoid?
 - Is there a promise to claim?
 - Is there a warning to heed or a teaching to act on?
- 2. Evaluate the level of _____.
 - Does it present a *broad* theological or moral principle or a *specific* one, which the Bible offers elsewhere?
 - Does the larger *context* limit the application or promote a more universal application?
 - Does subsequent *revelation* limit or qualify the application?
 - Is its teaching *contradicted* elsewhere, showing it was limited to exceptional situations?
 - Are *cultural conditions* identified or assumed by its authors, making its universal application inappropriate?
 - Is the *applicational rationale* rooted in creation, in God’s character, or in part of his redemptive plan?
- 3. Identify _____ principles.
- 4. Find applications that embody _____ principles.



2 Guidelines for Applying Scripture from *Understanding and Applying the Bible*



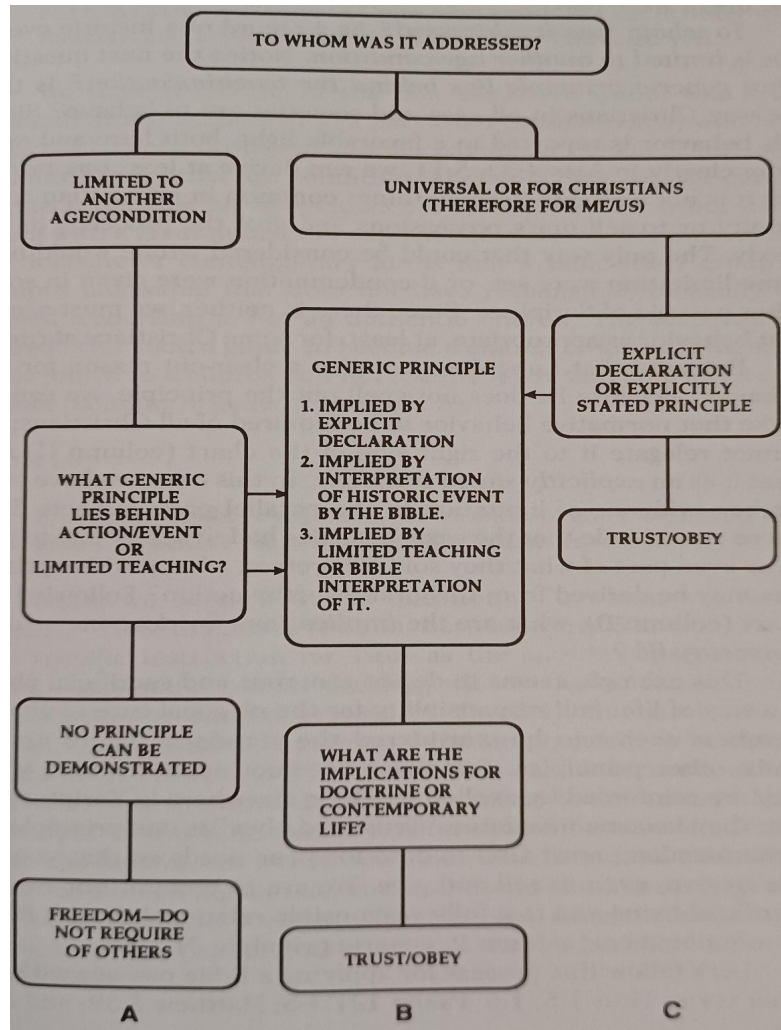
- 1. Every teaching of scripture is to be received universally, unless the Bible itself _____ the audience, either in the context of the passage itself or in other biblical teaching.
- 2. God desires the response of _____ and _____ to both the direct teachings and the principles of scripture.
- In addition to these guidelines for personal Bible application, do not neglect the role of the _____ in helping you apply the Bible rightly. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

- In short, the process of application is _____ on scripture, _____ the meaning to yourself, and then _____ the truth. (Romans 12:2)

Examples from the Bible

- Matthew 7:1
- Romans 8:28
- 2 Chronicles 7:14
- 1 Timothy 6:10
- Philippians 4:13
- Proverbs 22:6
- 1 Thessalonians 5:22
- Galatians 3:28
- 1 Timothy 2:12
- Matthew 24

◆ **Key takeaway:** *We can only obey the Bible honorably when we treat the meaning of the Bible honorably!*



Question 3: What cautions should we take in applying the Bible?

- Do not imagine a _____ meaning that is not embedded in the text. (1 Tim 5:23)
- Interpret narratives as _____, nor prescriptive (normally). (Acts 2:46)
- Pay attention to how _____ are used in their context. (John 6:35; Hebrews 12:1)
- Be aware of your own _____ presuppositions.
- Greg Koukl's "_____ principle" can be a useful tool to assess if your application fits the intended meaning. (John 12:32; 2 Timothy 2:7)

◆ **Key takeaway:** *Be careful that your application flows from the Bible's meaning!*

Question 4: What practical steps can we take to apply the Bible?

- Ask Questions:
 - Is there any truth about the _____ for me to know?
 - Is there any _____ for me to follow?

- Is there any _____ for me to obey?
- Is there any _____ adjustment for me to make?
- Is there any _____ for me to forsake?
- Is there any _____ for me to claim?
- How does this _____ relate to Jesus?

➤ Look for *how* the passage is framed:

- Direct _____
- General _____
- Direct _____
- Indirect _____
- Indirect _____

◆ **Key takeaway:** *The Bible is not just a book to be studied, but also truths to obey!*



Bibliography

- “Applying Scripture” in “He Gave Us Scripture: Foundations of Interpretation” by Third Mill Ministries
- Understanding and Applying the Bible* by Robertson McQuilken
- “How to Apply the Bible to Your Life in Four Steps” by Jeremy Bouma (A review of *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* by Klein, Blomberg, and Hubbard, Jr.)
- “5 Ways to Read the Bible for Personal Application” by Joe Carter
- “Interpretation, Illumination and Application” by Sid Litke
- “How to Apply the Bible in Daily Life” by Conrad Mbewe
- “An Easy Way to Weed Out Bad Bible Interpretations” by Greg Koukl
- “Avoid Mistakes in the Application of Scripture” by Mel Lawrenz