

Lecture Notes - Verse Analysis: General

Four basic parts of Bible Study

Observation - What _____ the passage?

Interpretation - What did the passage _____ to those to whom it was written?

Correlation - What _____ do other Scriptures give to this passage and its meaning?

Application - How does God want me to apply the _____ in the passage to my own life?

Example: 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Observation - Step One. What is the _____ of the verse? How does this verse fit in with the paragraph, chapter and book in which it is contained?

(Note: Chapter and verse divisions are _____ inspired and can be very misplaced. Some Bibles are formatted in a paragraph format. Many Bibles divided by Chapter and Verse indicate paragraphs by making the type **bold** in the first word in the sentence or the verse number. Many Bible translations often add Summary headings to indicate passage sections. These are helpful, but they are not inspired.

Observation - Step Two. Try to answer Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

WHO? Who is speaking? Who is being addressed? Who is the passage talking about?

What? What kind of passage is this? Poetry? Narrative? Direct teaching? Prophetic?

What is the atmosphere of this passage - Calm? Intense? Fearful? Rejoicing?

What happens in this passage?

What precedes this passage, and what follows it?

What do I learn about God, Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit in this passage?

What is God doing in this passage?

What difficult words are here, and what do they mean? Define words.

What will happen if I follow this person's example?

What will happen if I obey the command God gives here?

What will happen if I later ignore what I'm learning in this passage?

WHERE? Where does the action in this passage take place?

WHEN? When did this action occur?

WHY? Why did the speaker / writer use these particular words? (Lexical/syntactical)

Look for Key Words, linking words, metaphors, cause & effect statements, Commands, etc. Note grammar -

Why did God allow this to happen?

Why did the people respond as they did?

HOW? How did God work in someone's life in this passage?

How does this passage relate to other parts of Scripture?

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NASB95)

¹⁶ Rejoice always; ¹⁷ pray without ceasing; ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Observations: (Page 19)

- ▶Context: Immediate - 1 Thess. 5:12-22 is at the end of the letter and focuses on final _____ on proper Christian conduct
- ▶Context: Chapters 4-5 deal with practical _____ with 4:13-18 bringing comfort in the hope of the rapture at the Lord's return, which transitions to 5:1-11 which is an encouragement for them to build one another up in light of the coming Day of the Lord, with 5:12-22 being exhortations on proper Christian conduct as a means to build each other up.
- ▶Context: Book - Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians as a personal _____ of their steadfastness in persecution and practical exhortations and encouragements concerning current problems they were facing.
- ▶There are three _____ - rejoice, pray, give thanks
- ▶These commands have modifiers - always, without ceasing, in everything
- ▶The clause, *This is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you*, appears to apply to all three verses.
- ▶The modifiers could be exchanged with each other without a significant change in the meaning of the verses.

Interpretation (Page 19 (I))

- ▶The modifiers all have the idea of being _____, that is, there is never a time when they should not be done
- ▶Can verse 17 be taken literally? Is it possible to pray unceasingly? Or is Paul simply talking about an attitude here? (Note how the author states the observation as questions - showing he will need to do more research to come to a conclusion about a proper interpretation).

Application (Page 19 (A))

- ▶Giving thanks (verse 18) is not one of my strong points. I tend to grumble about everything
 - ▶I rejoice (sometimes), but not "always"
- (note the author is honest about himself - you cannot make proper application unless you are)

(I) Step Three - (Page 19) Briefly rewrite the verses in your _____ - this is a good exercise because it requires you to state your current understanding of what the passage is communicating.

(C) Step Four. _____ each verse with passages that are on the same subject (Aides include TSK, a topical Bible, a concordance to find the same word, its synonyms or cognates).

Verse 16 - Philippians 4:4

Verse 17 - Ephesians 6:18

Verse 18 - Romans 1:21; Ephesians 5:20

(A) Step Five. _____ from the possible applications the one God would have you work on. State the problem, an example of the problem, the solution and the specific things God would have you do to apply the solution (Page 20)

Verse Analysis: General

Read Pages 17-20. Following the example given in its analysis of 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, do the same with the passage indicated below.

Passage: Philippians 4:6-7

Step One - Set the Context

Immediate Context _____

Extended Context _____

Theme of Book _____

Step Two - Observation - Who, What, When, Where, Why, How?

Step Three (Interpretive Paraphrase)

