



## Proverbs 3 | How to Read Scripture 01.26.20

**1 Timothy 5:17** *Let the elders (pastors / bishops) who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.*

**2 Timothy 2:15** *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

**Titus 2:11-15** *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. <sup>15</sup> **Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.***

**Acts 17:11** *These (members at Berea) were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

**Galatians 1:6-8** *I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, <sup>7</sup> which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.*

**Hermeneutics** is the rules and science of Bible interpretation.

- Eisegesis is to read into the text what you want it to say.
- Exegesis is to read out of the text the author's intended meaning.

### **Three Basic Steps to Bible Study:**

1. Observation: Like a Bible detective, we look for clues by asking questions.
2. Interpretation: Look for the original writers intended meaning for the original readers.
  - Take Scripture into proper context and compare Scripture with Scripture.
  - Take Scripture literally unless the text or context suggests otherwise.
  - Not all the Bible was written to us, but all the Bible was written for us.
  - What is the genre of the letter? What type or style is it written in?

**Through God's common grace**, people can gain a certain amount of wisdom about how to live in the world. There are unbelievers who know how to manage their money well, respond positively to difficult situations, have good marriages, and even respond to tragedy with strength and dignity. **However, only God the creator can give true insight** into the way the world works, our fallen nature, our hope and rescue, and what an eternal perspective looks like.

### 3. Application: The “so what of the verse” - What does God want me to do with this knowledge?

Proverbs is wisdom/poetic literature that includes the use of aphorism, literal, and figurate language. (*\* An aphorism is a statement of a general truth or principle.*)

Some Proverbs are to be taken within the context that they are generally true principles.

1. To say that some Proverbs are generally true is *not* to say they are less inspired by the Holy Spirit.
2. Generally true Proverbs are valuable to follow and apply.
3. Exceptions to the general truths are *not* to be ignored, but they are to be seen and interpreted as exceptions.
4. We must interpret generally true Proverbs within the context of God’s sovereign plan and our fallen world which is filled of disease, crime, war, and injustice.
5. There are many absolute principles within Proverbs.
6. The author can only say so much in a verse or group of verses.
7. One Proverb may highlight a particular principle that may be balanced or given greater clarification in another Proverb.

***Scripture should speak for itself.*** *When we place our personal desires, traditions, assumptions, or ambitions before the text, we are doing eisegesis not exegesis.*

***Proverbs 3:1-1-*** *My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; <sup>2</sup>For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you. <sup>3</sup>Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, <sup>4</sup>And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man. <sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. <sup>7</sup>Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. <sup>8</sup>It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. <sup>9</sup>Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; <sup>10</sup>So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.*

#### **Approaching Bible Difficulties | *When Critics Ask* by Norman Geisler**

- Presuming the Bible guilty until proven innocent
- Confusing fallible interpretations with infallible revelation
- Failing to understand the context of the passage
- Neglecting to interpret difficult passages in light of clear ones
- Forgetting the Bible is a human book with human characters
- Assuming that a partial report is a false report
- Demanding that the N.T. citations of the O.T. must always be exact quotations
- Assuming that divergent accounts are false ones
- Presuming that the Bible approves of all it records
- Forgetting the Bible uses non-technical, everyday language
- Assuming that round numbers are false

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#### **2.2.20 | Proverbs 4:23 - Guard Your Heart**