



- A. Meditation is reflection upon, consideration of, or intent observance of that which has been previously considered.
- You cannot “meditate” on what has not been previously “considered.” The word picture is akin to a cow chewing on its cud, and continually bringing it back up.
 - God’s Word should be so stamped on our minds that we can recall it for reflection and meditation later.
- B. Meditation is a time for looking at the Scripture from as many different angles as possible.

4. Meditate must lead to _____ .

How does this truth affect ME? Why does it affect ME? What am I going to do about it?

A Simple Three-Step Process

1. Observe
 - a. Try to understand the historical context
 - b. Ask the journalist questions
 - c. Look for connective words
 - d. Understand the type of writing (prophetic, narrative, epistle?)
2. Interpret
 - a. The Golden Rule (the other one!)
 - b. The First Mention Rule
 - c. The importance of Context
 - d. An “Inside-Out” Approach
3. Apply
 - a. Memorization
 - b. Meditation
 - c. Internalization
 - d. Summarization

Title: Rightly Divided: A Guide to Studying the Bible

Speaker: Dr. Mike Lester

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

Introduction: _____

1. Have proper _____ for studying Scripture.

- A. We study to show ourselves _____ unto God.
- We do not study simply to answer the JW’s, Catholics, Mormons, etc.
 - We do not study to impress others with knowledge.
- B. We study so that we will not be _____.
- We are to contend for the faith.
 - Paul caused the Hebrew Christians to feel ashamed because they had not studied the Word of God and still required milk, rather than meat. (Hebrews 5:11–6:6)
- C. We study so that we can rightly _____ Scripture.
- We want to know what God said!
 - Denominations are built from Scriptures wrongly divided.
 - We cannot wrestle Scripture from its context to teach what we want to teach.

- What God has said to us in His Word is infallible; there are no contradictions that cannot be given a reasonable explanation.
- Since God's word is not so arranged that all that is said upon one subject is said in the same chapter, or even the same book, it becomes necessary to compare Scripture with Scripture, often covering hundreds of places to establish a given truth, principle, or doctrine.

2. Develop good study _____ .

A. Have a certain _____ to study.

- The Bereans searched the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11).
- The time to study is not always synonymous with the time for devotions. Often in a devotional setting, we are looking for a thought, a promise, or something specific from that passage that we can take with us.
- A Bible study on a particular topic may take weeks, months, or longer.
- Study is better when you are rested and alert. You cannot "cram" in Bible study and hope to retain what you learn.

B. Have a certain _____ to study.

- Is it private?
- Is it quiet?
- Is it well-lit?
- Are there books, pens, paper, around?

C. During study time, be _____ and systematic.

- Decide upon a particular topic and stick with it.
- Don't be content to simply read and grab "truths" as they pass you by. Determine what you need to learn more about, and dig out what the Bible says about those subjects.
- Use some type of note-taking device.

Notes are word pictures, and a picture is worth a 1000 words.

Most people learn better by writing and taking notes.

If something was good when you first studied it, it will also be good for you when you review those notes.

D. Ask yourself the basic _____ questions:

- Who is talking?
- To whom is he talking?
- What is he talking about?
- When did it happen?
- Why did it happen?
- Where did it happen?
- How did it happen?
- NOTE: If you can answer these questions, your Bible knowledge of the passage or subject will be greatly advanced.

E. _____ the Scriptures.

- Compare scriptures with scriptures. This is where a reference Bible is useful. The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible.
- Strong's Concordance is "the standard" when it comes to finding a word in the Bible.
- Other tools would include Torrey's Topical Textbook, Bible Dictionaries, commentaries, word studies, subject studies, etc.

F. Organize what you learn under specific headings.

G. Review what you learn from time to time.

3. _____ on those things which are studied.