

Why is Mark sharing this information?



Inductive Bible Study: Application

What parts need further study (connection to the Old Testament, word studies, Jesus fulfilling prophecy, etc.)?

Summarize the passage in one sentence:

Inductive Bible study is not just for information, but for _____

The dictionary defines application as the act of putting to use or putting into operation, especially for some practical purpose. In Bible study, application is putting truth you've discovered (through observation and interpretation) to use in your life with the ultimate goal of transformation or life change.

Bible study is meant not merely to inform but to transform and renew our mind (Rom. 12:2). Application answers the question, **How does the truth of this passage apply to my life?** Note that the question is not "Is this truth relevant to my life?" The truth of God's Word is always relevant to our life. The more honest question is "Am I ready and willing believe this truth and to apply it in my life?"

Application is often the most neglected yet the most needed stage in our Bible studies, too often begins and ends in the wrong place...with interpretation. The goal of Bible study is not simply to determine **what it says** and **what it means**, but in the final analysis to apply it to one's life.

Neglecting application or doing it haphazardly is a dangerous situation for one who studies the Bible. Consider the following:

- 1) The Jewish _____ leaders of Jesus' day: pharisees, lawyers, scribes. They knew the Scriptures inside and out but rejected the One the Scriptures are written about! (John 5:39)
- 2) The warning given to _____ in James 1:22-25 to be doers of the Word, not hearers only. We have to be careful not to deceive ourselves. We don't really know the Bible unless we obey the Bible. To profess great love for God's word or even to pose as a Bible student is a form of self-deception unless our increasing knowledge of the word is producing increasing likeness to the Lord Jesus.

Consider also some of the metaphors God uses to describe the Bible: they are tools which expose flaws and provide guidance (2 Tim. 3:16).

- 1) A _____ (James 1:23)
- 2) A living and active _____ which penetrates deep within (Heb. 4:12-13)
- 3) A _____ (Ps. 119:105)
- 4) A _____ agent (Ps. 119:9)

To foster better application (putting truth to the pavement of our lives), here are some questions presented with the acronym PACESTEPS to help us walk in the light of God's Word:

1. P – Is there a _____ to believe or condition to meet in order to partake of the promise?
2. A – Is there an _____ to change or guard against or an **Action** I need to take?
3. C – Is there a _____ to keep?
4. E – Is there an **Example** to follow?
5. S – Is there a _____ to avoid, forsake or confess?
6. T – Is there a _____ about God or about myself to **memorize** and **meditate** upon?
7. E – Is there an _____ to mark?
8. P – Is there a **Prayer** to pray or a **Priority** to change?
9. S – Is there _____ to thank or praise God for?

Taking the application deeper, we should also consider the following:

- 1) How does this truth apply to my (a) personal life (b) my family (c) work (d) church (e) neighborhood?
- 2) In view of this truth, what specific changes should I make in my life? In other words, am I applying this truth? If not why not? Is it because of ignorance, rebellion or indifference?
- 3) How do I propose to carry out these changes? We need to be specific here. Don't deceive yourself!

Application begins with **belief**, which then results in _____ and **doing**. There should never be a time when we go to the Scriptures without allowing them to change our lives for the better. **Greater knowledge** should always bring about greater obedience, enabled by grace not law, empowered by the indwelling Spirit as we learn to discard self effort and depend on the Spirit.

Mark 1:14-20

Who are the characters in this passage?

What action is taking place?

Where and when is the action taking place?