

TAKING APPLICATION USING ALL SCRIPTURE

*“For whatsoever things were written aforetime
were written for our learning...”*

~ Romans 15:4

1. The Need for All Scripture

- a. We who are Pauline are accused of not using all scripture, but 2 Tim 3:16 is Pauline
- b. Paul uses all scripture - 1 Cor 10:11; Rom 15:4; 2 Tim 3:15, “it is written”
- c. *Historical* – Looks for facts about who, what, where. True/false descriptions, persons, events
- d. *Spiritual* – Looks to discern good/bad. Good/bad behavior, thoughts, choices, wisdom
- e. *Doctrinal* (dispensational) – Looks to discern God’s will/operation thru progressive revelation
- f. We must rightly divide, and must study Paul, but cannot only study Paul – 2Tim 3:17
- g. Most of Christianity has the reverse problem and needs to be told to be Pauline

2. What the Bible is Used For

- a. Not as a tool to promote sin, strife, heresies, debate, argument, ignorance, malice
- b. 2 Tim 3:16 – Doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness
- c. Col 1:9-11 – Knowledge of God, God’s will, spiritual understanding, walk, spiritual strength
- d. The reason we rightly divide is so that we can gain spiritual discernment, not lose it
- e. The Bible needs to be taken literally in its context, not spiritualized.

3. Natural/Spiritual Learning

- a. Children – they can learn from history; watching others; discerning instructions
- b. Sports – watching tapes is useful, but this differs from knowing who is calling the play
- c. Investments – not knowing unchanging principles, historical trends, current rates is foolish
- d. Spiritually – we can learn spiritual realities from historical books as long as we know what God’s will and operation is for us today

4. What Good are the Law, Psalms, and Prophets?

- a. Examples from the law – 1 Cor 9:9-10 (Deu 25:4); 1 Cor 10:5-11; Gal 3:10 & Deu 27:26
 - i. “Christ is the end of the law” – Ro 10:4, Rom 6:14; “the law is good” – Rom 7:12
- b. Examples from Psalms – Psalm 1, Ps 7:8, Ps 147; Ps 94:11 and 1 Cor 1:20
- c. Examples from Proverbs – Prov 2:21-22; 3:1-6; Prov 6 vs. Luke 12:24 vs. 2Thess 3:10
- d. Example from the prophets – Jer 9:23-24 and 1 Cor 1:29-31
- e. We can/should learn from all scripture else we will be lacking and ill-equipped

Avoid Spiritualizing

Learning from the Bible spiritually means learning about literal spiritual realities, virtues, and principles. The spiritual application is different than "spiritualizing" or "proof texting" which is a wrong use of scripture. Spiritualizing, or not taking the Bible literally, is described below:

1. Denying God meant to say what was actually recorded in scripture.
2. Changing the Bible into an allegory that addresses the current events, movements, politics, or ideas.
3. Removing the contextual limitations so that any passage in scripture can be used to help anyone in any way at any time.
4. Diminishing any sense of dogmatism. No one can fully understand God, and so no one can claim to know right or wrong, truth, or good and bad for everyone.
5. Making the Bible a mystical book interpreted by ones feelings and emotions. "There is no absolute meaning."