

The Inductive Bible Study: Evaluation

- Dr. Patrick Oben
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Deshen School
— Of The Spirit —



OBJECTIVE



- Understand the basic principles Evaluation of Scriptural passages and their application

Basic House Keeping Stuff

- This lessons is pre-recorded, so no live interactions but send your questions to patrick@patrickoben.com
- This Training and Course Material is FREE
 - You will not be asked to give at the end
 - You will not be asked for donations by follow up email
 - Bring your heart and be equipped, then go and equip others

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Introduction to the Inductive
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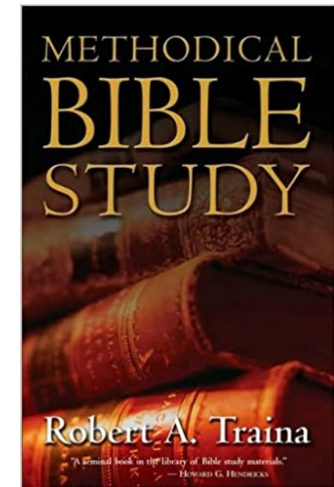
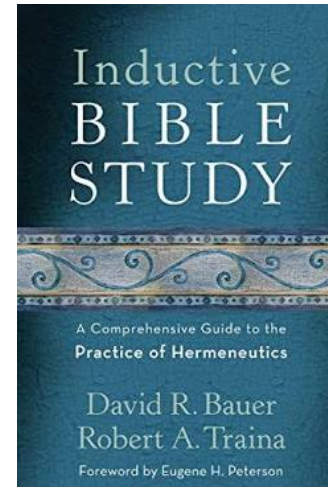
Want to Learn About Us?

Deshen is the a transliteration of the Hebrew word used for "fatness" in Ps. 36:8.

[Get Started ▶](#)

Resources I Use

- Logos Basic is FREE
- Heard is slows down some computers before, but not experiencing this
- I have the The Collector's Edition(Paid), I see the Value in the Word and in this Software
- No business dealings with them. I think they have created a fantastic software the Church should be proud and thankful for!
- Others: Accordance Bible software, scripture4all, blueletterbible.com , etc



The image is a screenshot of the Logos Bible Software website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 'Faithlife' logo on the left, 'Tools' and 'Sign in' on the right, and a 'Download Logos' button. Below the navigation bar is a search bar and a shopping cart icon. The main content area features a large background image of a young woman with glasses sitting on a wooden bench outdoors, looking at a tablet. Overlaid on this image is the text 'Free Bible Software' in a large, white font. Below this, a paragraph describes Logos 8 Basic as free Bible software that helps users discover life-changing biblical truths. A prominent orange button labeled 'Get Basic free' is positioned below the text. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a small line of text: 'We'll send you an email explaining how to access Logos on all your devices.'



The Inductive process



OBSERVATION



INTERPRETATION



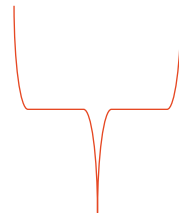
EVALUATION



APPLICATION



CORRELATION



Assignment from last week review

- Observe & Interpret one of your favorite Bible verses
- Thank you and congratulations to all those who submitted their assignments on time
- Joy, Angeline, Babila, Queenter ,.....
- Summary General Comments ...

General Comments on Assignments

- The very basics of first observation a scripture before interpreting is a major achievement----trust me, so congratulations!
- A lot of Interpretation during Observation
- Interpretation based on facts not found directly in Observation
- Be systematic: follow the guide point by point to help you develop the habit easily
- Overall: remember, it will take time to perfect this skill, so do not bother about being perfected now. Baby steps only!
 - You have the advantage I will be here to help you through difficulties
 - I did not have that privilege!



Lesson outline

- Evaluation
- Application

What is Evaluation?



The 3rd Step in the Inductive Process after Interpretation



What do you do after you find the meaning of the terms and structures in a passage?

Should you apply it directly to your life?

No!

This is where Evaluation comes in



Evaluation

- Evaluate essentially means to assess the worth of something, appraise its value, excellence, relevance and usefulness
- Two major concerns of Evaluation
 1. The validity of the scriptural passage or Bible as a whole(Truthfulness)
 2. The value of the scriptural passage to us today

The Rationale for Evaluation

- The scriptures were written long ago and addressing specific local and historical situations
- Remember: God used human language and concrete events and experiences of people to communicate His Truth
- There are two main steps for us today
- First, distinguish the truth from the events/experiences that were used to communicate it
 - Not every details in the event is relevant, eg interpretation of parables



Rational for Evaluation 2

- Once we have isolate the Truth God was communicating to the specific audience at that time, we then need to distinguish two major aspects of this truth
 1. What part of it is specific to the person or people God was addressing: truth that is local and restricted
 2. What part of the truth is applicable to everyone else, especially today: truth that is timeless, universal and general

The Problems of Improper Evaluation

- Improper Evaluation can lead to spiritual disaster
- Not every command, instruction or truth in the Bible can be applied to you today in Christ
 - This is a major cause of problems in the Body of Christ today
- Simplistic example: God told Abraham to leave his father's house. That was a command for Abraham, not you. There are lessons you can learn but that command is not directly applicable to you!

Differential Value and Worth of Scriptures

- Individual parts of the scriptures have varying degrees of pertinence and value
- If you were to select certain books of the Bible, will you choose or prefer some above others?
 - Certainly yes, because they contain different value of applicable Truth to us today
- Your role: determine the worth, value and usefulness of different passages for you today

The Process of Evaluation

Evaluation is the beginning of Application, because you will be seeking to understand how that scriptural passage applies to you



Two main phases

General
Evaluation

Specific
Evaluation

General Evaluation

- Deals with the general validity and value of the Truth in the Bible in general
- Is the Bible in general useful to society today?
- Is the Bible an accurate book?
- These questions are not the focus of this lesson
- You do not need to bother about this for your regular devotional study
- It has its place, but not relevant for us now

Specific Evaluation

- This is our focus
- Specifically concerned about:
 1. The exact worth or value of the passage we are studying
 2. When and where and for whom are those passages worthwhile?
- Remember the major difference we are concerned about
 - What is local and restricted to the original audience
 - What is timeless and universal

The Standard for Evaluation of Truth


- Jesus said “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life”! (John 14:6)
- He is God in the flesh, the highest and supreme revelation of God to humanity
- He is the gold standard for Truth
- The New Testament then is the Standard, specifically truth that apply to us, as His Church (this season of the Church)

Three Types of Passages

1. Old Testament passages especially those related to the Law given to the Jews under the old covenant
 - Their revelation was a shadow
 - Supplanted by the revelation by Christ
 - Lessons to learn but the commandments, rules, etc are not directly applicable to us!
 - Eg circumcision, Jews introduced it to Galatians and Paul was so angry about it Gal 3:1
 - Believers still struggle with this: eg feasts

Local situations and practices

- Second type of Biblical passages are those that deal specifically with local situations and practices
- Remember: God used concrete historical events and experiences to communicate His truth. Our concern is not the specific details of the events because they might not be applicable to us but on the truth communicated



Example of local situations

- In Romans 14:1-15:13
- The Roman Church had a local problem: quarrel about those who ate meat and those who did not
- In dealing with this Paul revealed a great timeless truth: it is not enough that your heart is right with God. The consequences of your actions on others are important.
- Today, the specific story is not a big deal for most of us today but the message is timeless

Third Type of Passage

- Passages that address concrete historical situations but the statements could be addressed to anyone
- Eg Jesus spoke John 3:16 to Nicodemus but this verse can be addressed to anyone

Helpful Guide to Proper Evaluation

- Avoid snap judgements of value
- Beware of subjectivity: Evaluation is not for us to choose what we like or want from the scriptures
- Consistency must be maintained
 - If we say circumcision for example is not applicable to the believer in Christ
 - We should not accept other things in the Law such as the Feasts etc as acceptable. We do not pick and choose.

Summary

- After you determine the meaning of a passage, the next step should not be application to your life but Evaluation to determine its validity and value to you as a believer in Christ today
- Improper Evaluation will cause problems
- As always, maintain the discipline of not skipping the steps of the inductive process or introducing one step while in another
- After Intrepreation, Evaluate before you Apply!

Next week

- We will have a live session!
- Topic: Application!
- Application is the ultimate goal of Bible Study so get ready!
- You can bring your questions for this session and ask me when we are live



Again Remember....

- Why I am doing this
- Why you are doing this
- I am not interesting in discussing Theology with you, neither should your goal be to learn Theological stuff
- If you do not experience God in the scriptures, then Bible study has been a waste or a purely intellectual process
- Let this expectation always be high in your mind: Bible Study is an appointment with the Presence and Power of God through the Holy Spirit!

Assignment

- I want you to
 1. Choose one of your favorite verses in scripture(can use the same as last week and go with corrections I sent)
 2. Observe the scripture
 3. Interpret it
 4. Evaluate it using the specific evaluation process: write down if the passage is applicable to you and how
 5. Write down all of your findings
 6. Send to me before Friday at patrick@patrickoben.com
 7. NB. Please ensure you send to this specific email address, otherwise it might get lost



Course Materials

- The PDF and Video will be uploaded to deshenschool.com Please visit <https://deshenschool.com>
- Create an account, enroll in the Course and you see all previous lessons with the videos and PDF
- It is FREE!!!



Questions?

Send by email or keep them for next Training
Session on Saturday!



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