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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**2 Timothy 2:15**  
**Lesson #3**  
**Rightly handling the Word**  
**01/20/2019**

*Acts 17:11*

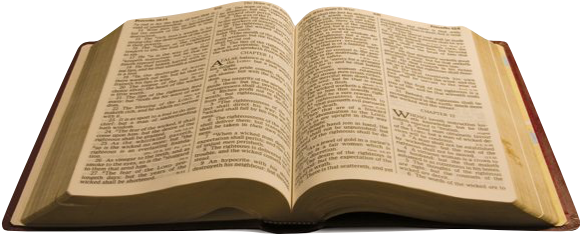
“Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.”

*2 Timothy 2:15*

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.”

1


## *How to read the Old Testament*



2

“In early 1960, as I was finishing my first year at Dallas Theological Seminary, I took a course from Dr. Howard Hendricks that would mark my life and ministry forever.”

**Howard Hendricks**



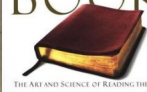
HOWARD G. HENDRICKS  
WILLIAM D. HENDRICKS

MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS


### LIVING BY THE BOOK

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF READING THE BIBLE

REVISED AND UPDATED  
FOREWORD BY CHARLES R. SWINDOLL




**Chuck Swindoll**



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## *Two overlooked challenges to reading the Bible*

- 1. Poor methods**
- 2. Little patience**



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## *The Point of this lesson*

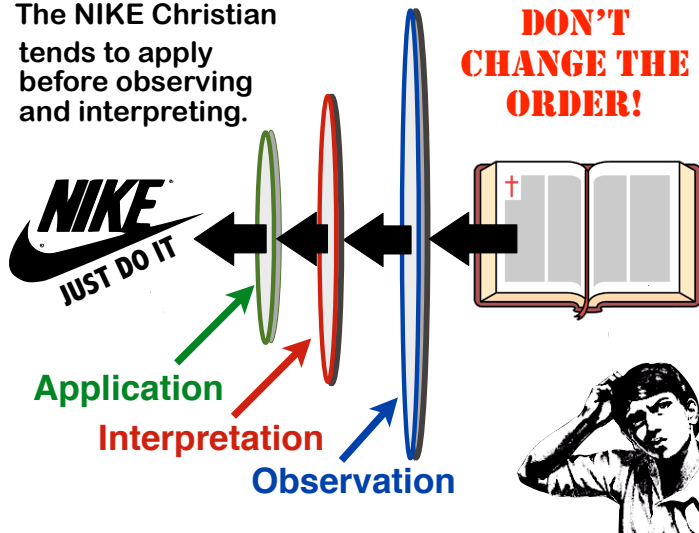
*Reading the Bible can be likened to  
mining for gold.*

- 1. Starting with a goal in mind**
- 2. Mining the text for ore**
- 3. Refining the ore for gold**
- 4. Turning gold to jewelry**
- 5. Wearing it**



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The NIKE Christian tends to apply before observing and interpreting.



## 2 Chronicles 7:14

“(If) My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

**Check it out in its context before you apply it.**



## 1. Start with the right goal in mind.

Some inadequate goals:

- Settling for **historical, academic** facts.
- Seeking a **feel good** spiritual experience.
- Looking for verses that seem to **support our view**.

Some much better goals:

- To develop **wisdom from holy Scripture**.
- To learn **the way of the Holy Spirit**.



## 2. Mine the ore (Get the facts)

- Make a **mechanical layout** of the text.

### Genesis 12

- 1 Now the Lord said to Abram,  
“Go forth  
from your country,  
And from your relatives  
And from your father's house,  
To the land  
which I will show you;
- 2 **And I will make you**  
a great nation,  
And I will bless you,  
And make your name great;  
And so you shall be a blessing;
- 3 **And I will bless those**  
who bless you,  
And the one who curses you  
I will curse.  
**And in you**  
all the families of the earth will be blessed.”



## 2. Mine the ore (Get the facts)

- Make a **mechanical layout** of the text.
- **Learn where and how to dig:**
  - Things that are **emphasized**.
  - Things that are **repeated**.
  - Things that are **related**.
  - Things that are **alike and unlike**.
  - Things that are **true to life**.
- **Bombard the text with questions** from heart, mind, and observations of life.
- **Prayerfully Meditate** on the text over time.



### Genesis 12

- 1 Now the Lord said to Abram,  
**‘Go forth’ #1 Present tense!**  
from your country, *Where?*  
And from your relatives  
And from ~~your~~ father's house,  
To the land *Where?*  
which I will show you; *How?*
- 2 **And I will make you #2 Future tense!**  
a great nation, *How?*  
And I will bless you, *How?*  
And make your name great;  
And so you shall be a blessing; *How?*
- 3 **And I will bless those #3 Future tense!**  
who bless you, *How?*  
And the one who curses you  
I will curse.  
**And in you #4 Future tense!**  
all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Old Testament

Security?

Is this an outline of the Bible?

How important is “leaving” in order to be blessed?

Is this normally how God works?

Future tense!

Is this promise repeated?

Why the emphasis on family?

Jesus Luke 24:27 John 5:39

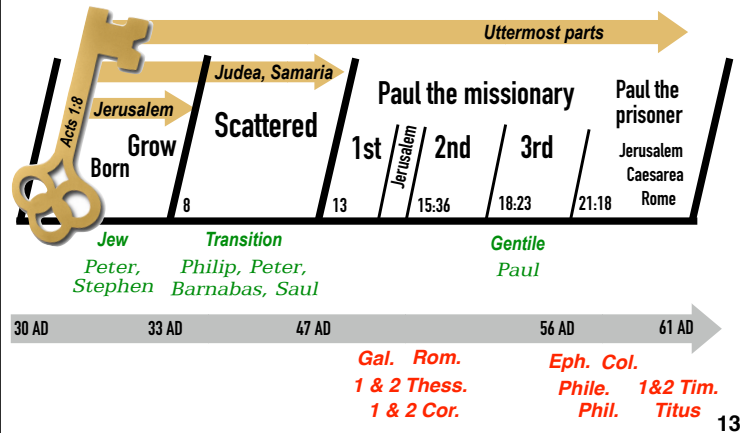
### 3. Refine the gold (see the relevance).

- If this text is an answer, **what is the question?**
- **Commit** to an investigation that will be hard work.
- Be **persistent, patient, and prayerful**. Don't quit until you find its spiritual treasures.
- Seek out solid help (**teachers, books, classes, etc.**) that guide your study of the Scripture.
- **Prayerfully Meditate** on the text over time.
- Make a **chart** to see key relationships and literary context.



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### The witness of the Holy Spirit in and through the lives of the Apostles



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### Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd,  
I shall not want.  
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.  
3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.  
4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil,  
for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.  
5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.  
6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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### 4. Produce jewelry (interpret the text).

**The Bible is**  
**the Word of God** **in human language**  
**therefore respect**

**The laws of the Spirit**  
(subjective / personal)

**The laws of human language**  
(objective / public)

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### 4. Produce jewelry (interpret the text).

Context:

- "theological, literary, cultural, personal"

Distinguish:

- "modern English" from "ancient languages"
- "literal" from "literary"
- "occasional" from "principle"
- "descriptive" from "prescriptive"
- "cultural" from "universal"
- "prophecy" from "fulfillment"
- "Inerrancy" from "precision"

Persist: Paraphrase:  
Pray: Notarize:



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## Four views of Biblical inerrancy

	Treatment of information		Results of correct interpretation
	Scientific historical	Theological spiritual	
Absolute	perfect	perfect	perfect
Full	through human eyes	perfect	perfect
Limited	reflecting ancient culture	perfect	perfect
Purpose	reflecting ancient culture	reflecting ancient culture	perfect

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*Isaiah 65:1*

"I was **ready to be sought by** those who did not ask for me."

*Romans 10:20*

"I have **shown myself to** those who did not ask for me."

Paul quotes from the **Greek** translation, which digresses from the **Hebrew** text.

*Matthew 19:8*

"He said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart, **Moses permitted** you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.'

**Divorce was not God's will but it was prescribed in Deut.24:1-4 as the lesser of two evils.**

19

*2 Samuel 5:13*

"After he left Hebron, **David took more concubines** and wives in Jerusalem, and more sons and daughters were born to him."

**This description of what was permitted was not a prescription of what should happen.**

*Matthew 19:8*

"He said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart, **Moses permitted** you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.'

**Divorce was not God's will but it was prescribed in Deut.24:1-4 as the lesser of two evils.**

20

*1 Corinthians 8:4*

"Therefore concerning the **eating of things sacrificed to idols**, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one."

**"Things sacrificed to idols" is a cultural issue illustrating a universal principle.**

*Acts 2:4*

"And they were **all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit was giving them utterance."

**This description of what happened is not necessarily a prescription of what should always happen.**

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*Galatians 3:16*

"Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as referring to many, but rather to one, 'And to your seed,' that is, Christ."

**Paul is not sighting any O.T. text as a "proof text" he is interpreting the O.T..**  
(See also Isa.53 "suffering servant" as Jesus)

*Leviticus 18:5*

"So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, by which a man may live if he does them; I am the Lord."

**This promise of life (salvation) "by works" is cited by Paul in Gal.3:12 as standing in contrast to "by faith", which is of a Gospel revealed in a latter theological period.**

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**Following laws of the Spirit involves:**

**1. Responding to what we already know**

*Hebrews 5*

"<sup>11</sup> Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since **you have become dull of hearing**. <sup>12</sup> For though **by this time you ought to be teachers**, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. <sup>13</sup> For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil."

(See also Rom.1:21-23, Amos 8:11-12 in context)

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**Following laws of the Spirit involves:**

1. Responding to what we already know
2. Recognizing the ways of the Spirit

*1 Corinthians 1*

*"<sup>15</sup> But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man. <sup>16</sup> For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But we have **the mind of Christ.**"*

*John 16:14*

"He (**Holy Spirit**) shall **glorify Me**; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you."

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**Following laws of the Spirit involves:**

1. Responding to what we already know
2. Recognizing the ways of the Spirit
- The example of Jesus

*1 Corinthians 11:1*

"Be imitators of me, **just as I also am of Christ.**"  
(context = selfless service)

- The emphasis of Scripture

*1 Corinthians 4:6*

"Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might learn **not to exceed what is written**, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other."

25

**What is the emphasis in the Apostles teaching?**



**or** What Would Jesus  
**Have Us** Do?

**World evangelism?**

**Liturgical worship?**

**Democratic government?**

**Social reform of society?**

**A specific church org. model?**

**Confessing sin for fellowship?**

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**Following laws of the Spirit involves:**

1. Responding to what we already know
2. Recognizing the ways of the Spirit
3. Respecting the role of prayer

*Ephesians 1:18*

"I pray that the **eyes of your heart may be enlightened**, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."

4. Realizing that we see dimly

*1 Corinthians 13:12*

"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; **now I know in part**, but then I will know fully."

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**How many of your theological proclamations are punctuated with:**

(!)

"I have no doubts."

(.)

"I have some settled beliefs."

(,)

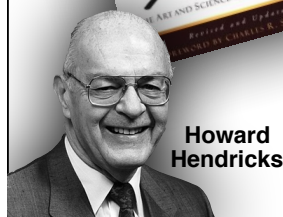
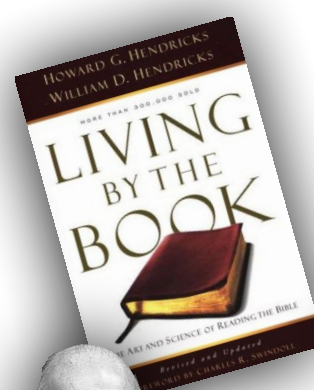
"I have insights but am open."

(?)

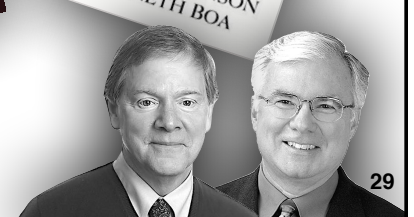
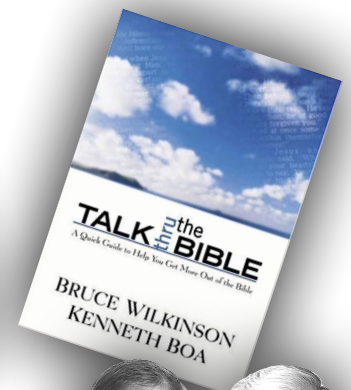
"I only have good questions."



28



Howard  
Hendricks



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