

How Do We Study The Bible? (Part IV)

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **brief series on Bible study**
- **last lesson:** Bible principles of interpretation
 - ended, noticing that Jesus didn't recognize the need to adopt a hermeneutic, but to establish authority
- **this lesson:** brief overview of authority – perhaps most important lesson regarding Bible interpretation
 - **note:** had an in depth series in 2006
 - **note:** cover a lot of material, not much time for examples and illus., keep yourself engaged
 - **Bible class** book on my site, **audio lessons** on both my site and church site

➤ We live under the law of Christ

- **Heb. 7:12** God changed the law, necessary so Jesus could be our high priest (tribe of Judah)

➤ - Gal. 6:2 we must fulfill the law of Christ – Matt. 28:18-19; Heb. 5:9; Col. 3:17

- **the law of Christ is composed of Christ's teachings**
 - **Ja. 1:25; 2:12** we'll be **judged** by the law of liberty
 - **2 Cor. 5:10; Jn. 12:48** we'll be **judged** by Jesus, His word
 - **therefore, the law by which we must live is composed within Jesus' teaching** – law of Christ / liberty
 - **2 Tim. 3:16-17** Scripture profitable for **teaching**, for reproof, for **correction**, for **training** in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, **equipped for every good work**
 - **must contain law of Christ, which we must fulfill to be saved**

➤ We must obey God's commands

- **Heb. 1:1-2** God has spoken through Jesus
 - **God commands us to hear Jesus** – rf - baptism, transfiguration

➤ - Heb. 5:9 we must obey Jesus to be saved – Matt. 28:18-19; Col. 3:17

➤ - 1 Cor. 14:37 the Lord's commands written in NT

- **two types of commands: specific and general**
 - **illus.:** Noah, **“build”** is general but **“gopher wood”** is specific – explain
 - **illus.:** Mk. 16:16 **“go”** is general / 1 Cor. 16:1 **“first day of the week”** is specific – explain
 - **illus.:** parents says **“go”** to the store vs. **“walk”** to the store – explain

➤ **Expediencies required to fulfill general commands**

- **expedient: something that's helpful** – word appears a few times in the Bible

- **illus.: from above** – show expedient required to fulfill general command – build, go

- when God is specific, must obey that which is specified – “gopher wood” “first day of week”

- when God isn't specific, must use expedient to help – “go” may walked or rode or sailed

- **note:** can only use an expedient when we have a general command

➤ - **criteria of expedients we can use**

- **1 Cor. 6:12** (context: expediency to eat meat)

- **lawful**

- has to be fulfilling a general command from God

- has to be lawful in and of itself – illus.: can't steal

- **profitable** (KJV: “expedient” - NKJ: “helpful”)

- **not master** (not have power over us)

- not addicted to it – illus.: coffee

➤ - **1 Cor. 10:23-24** (context: eating meat offered to idols)

- **lawful, profitable** (as above)

- **edify**

- an expedient we choose to use must build people up, not tear down

- illus.: should eat meat if would cause a brother to lose soul, otherwise ok

- **good for neighbor as well as self**

- edify all parties concerned

- **some people try to justify sin by saying it's expedient**

- **illus.: instrumental music**, expedient because makes singing better

- **no: we do not have a general command** authorizing instrumental music

- **no: it transgresses a specific command** to sing, specifically accompanied by the heart

- **illus.: kitchen and fellowship hall** in the church building is expedient

- **no: we do not have a general command** authorizing a kitchen

- **no: transgresses God's instructions** for social fellowship and eating of meals to be conducted on personal basis (Acts 2:46; 1 Cor. 11:22)

- **we live under the law of liberty** that gives us much freedom, but we **have a responsibility to use expediences exactly as God instructs**

➤ **Apostolic example is authoritative**

- **2 Tim. 1:13** the NT establishes a standard (pattern, form, example we follow)

- **illus.: dress maker** has a pattern, cut out the material and sew according to pattern, result is a dress

➤ - **2 Th. 2:15** commanded to keep apostolic traditions

➤ - **2 Th. 3:6-7a, 9b** commanded to imitate the apostles, follow their example – **1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1**

➤ - **Which apostolic examples are not binding on us today?** – all God's word excludes

- **examples in keeping the Mosaic Law excluded**

- **Heb. 7:12** God changed the law, we live under the law of Christ (**Gal. 6:2**)

- **Gal. 5:3-4** Christian who keeps the law to be saved has fallen from grace, severed from Christ

➤ - **examples of keeping cultural traditions**

- **1 Cor. 9:20-21** Paul kept traditions of the Mosaic Law when it was expedient, and Gentile traditions when they were expedient, but always was loyal to the law of Christ

- **1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23-24** any lawful cultural tradition can be observed by Christians as long as it's expedient

➤ - **examples applying to expedients apostles employed**

- expediences, of necessity, differ depending on circumstances

- **illus.: we can fly in airplanes today, they couldn't in the first century**

➤ **God requires us to make lawful inferences (conclusions)**

- **definitions:**

- **“infer” verb**, to make a conclusion by the deduction of facts

- **“inference” noun**, the result of inferring (the result of making a conclusion by the deduction of facts)

- **inferences help us understand the historical narrative**

- use inferences to establish the **author** of some books

- use inferences to establish **estimated dates** (**illus.: date book written**)

- use inferences to **fill in gaps of the historical narrative**

➤ - **three inferences man must make today** from God's word

- **we must exercise due diligence** and **take personal responsibility** in carrying out God's will

- **2 Pet. 1:5, 10** diligence commanded

- **illus.: Noah** had to be diligent to build the ark, and take person responsibility to carry out command

- **illus.: Abraham** had to be diligent and take personal responsibility to offer his son, left early the next morning

- **illus.: Peter** had to be diligent and take personal responsibility to go and preach to Cornelius

- **contrast Jonah** when sent to Ninevah

- **when we're instructed to do something on a particular day**, we must do it **every time** that day comes about

- **illus.: OT feasts and Sabbaths**, God told them when to observe them, not tell them to do every time, yet held them accountable for properly inferring that “every time” was required

- **Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2** told when to observe the **Lord's Supper** and take up **collection**, God requires us to lawfully infer that “every time” in meant

➤ **God's silence is not authoritative**

- **God is silent when He not given us any instructions** (command, binding apostolic example)

- **God's silence is not authoritative**

- **illus.: child goes to a friend's house after school**, few hours later parent shows up at friend's house, says "Why are you here; I didn't say you could come here after school!", child replies, "You didn't tell me not to!"

- **everyone knows the parents silence didn't authorize the act**

- **illus.: how big would the Bible be if had all the "do not's"** – 1st century Christians reading about the Internet

➤ - **1 Pet. 4:11** speak as the oracles of God – **say and do only what God has authorized**

➤ - **Col. 3:17** do all in the name of the Lord Jesus – **only do what He's authorized**

➤ - **1 Cor. 4:6** not to think beyond what is written – **only do what God authorizes, word**

➤ - **2 Jn. 1:9** abide in the teaching of Christ, if not, go too far, not have God

➤ - **Rev. 22:18-19** not add or take from God's word

➤ - **Heb. 7:11-14 illus.: Moses spoke nothing** – **therefore not authorized**

➤ - **whenever God's silence is not respected, the transgressors are punished**

- **Num. 20:7-12** God told Moses to strike the rock to get water, but he spoke to it as before

- **Moses punished, not allowed to enter promise land, because not believe and not honor God**

- **1 Ch. 13:9-10** Uzzah touch the ark of the covenant to keep it from falling off the cart

- **Uzzah punished, God struck him dead, not permitted to touch the ark under any circumstances**

➤ **God desires mercy and not sacrifice**

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- **Matt. 9:9-13** Jesus eating at Matthew's house, accused by Jews of being a sinner since He was eating with sinners, Jesus corrected them, telling them to go and learn what Hos. 6:6 means, I desire mercy and not sacrifice

- **Matt. 12:1-8** apostles accused of sin for plucking grain and eating it on the Sabbath, Jesus again corrected them using Hos. 6:6 and two examples: David and his men eating the show bread, the priest on the Sabbath offer sacrifice – **all of these were innocent**

➤ - **application for today**

- **"sacrifice"**

- OT: "sacrifice" represented the ceremonial part of the Mosaic Law that aided the people in their spiritual and moral service to God

- today: represents the things we employ to aid us in service to God

➤ - **"mercy"**

- outward manifestation of pity

➤ - **application (Matt. 9:9-13; 12:1-8):**

- mercy demands that the aids we employ in service to God be used to meet emergency need of people that can't be met in another authorized way

- **illus.: auto accident outside the church building during a storm** – **lawful**

- can use telephone to call 911, use church building for triage and to give aid, use first-aid kit to administer medical care – **authorized in emergency as this, but not under normal circumstances**

- **illus: auto accident outside the church building during a storm** – **unlawful**

- person going to die any moment and wants a priest to come in and conduct a worship service, giving him the

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **summary:**

- we live under the **law of Christ**
- we must obey God's **commands**
- general commands require us to use **lawful expediencies** to fulfill them
- **apostolic examples** authoritative
- God requires us to make **lawful inferences** (conclusions)s
- God's **silence** is not authoritative
- God desires **mercy and not sacrifice**

- **inv.:** are you obeying God today