

TTS Scripture – Exegesis: Handling the Bible Well

NOTES

Welcome to TTS Scripture!

- Thanks for coming.
- Thanks to City Church for hosting.

Let's get the boring stuff out the way first!

- **FIRST: Who are we?**
 - **DISCUSS:** You first!
 - What's your name, Church (etc.)?
 - **About TTS itself:**
 - Name comes from a couple of places – Packer + Paul.
 - Small, Chester-based organisation – Christ-centred.
 - Focus so far on 'Foundations' sessions – Nicene.
 - **Wider support:**
 - A core team providing support and wisdom.
 - Coverage from three Chester Churches.
 - Fiona Graham – an accomplished Bible teacher.
 - **About myself:**
 - Married to Jo.
 - Academic background.
- **SECOND: How will this session work?**
 - **Couple of practical details:**
 - To finish around 6.15pm.
 - Notes provided for free tomorrow – re: WEBSITE!
 - **Three key principles for all TTS sessions:**
 - [A] *"The Scriptures cannot be broken..."* [John 10:35]
 - [B] *"Will not the judge of all heaven and earth do right?"* [Gen 18:25]
 - [C] *"Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour"* [Rom 12:10]
 - **At the heart of all TTS sessions:**
 - *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind"* [Matt 22:37]
 - Any time we 'do' theology – it's not primarily a **studious** act, it's a **worshipful** one.

[1] Introduction – What Are We Here For?

Our remit: to think about how we read, study, and interpret the Bible.
BUT – million-dollar question before we begin... WHY??

[1A] The Bible – Our Inheritance and Our Delight

- **One valid answer to this question: “We should think about this because the Bible is an important text.”**
 - Consider the cultural juggernaut that is Harry Potter:
 - More than 500 million copies of HP titles sold.
 - Translated into 68 languages.
 - Now contrast that with the Bible:
 - Over *five billion* copies (excluding Gideon’s!)
 - Full Bible – 670 languages.
 - NT – 1,521 languages.
 - On the cultural impact:
 - Politics / art / literature, etc. Also KJV + English:
 - Be fruitful and multiply / Am I my brother’s keeper? / The mark of Cain / Coat of many colours / The fatted calf / Burning bush / A land flowing with milk and honey / Let my people go / An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth / The apple of his eye / I am escaped with the skin of my teeth / Leviathan / To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose / A voice crying in the wilderness / No peace for the wicked / See eye to eye / Cut off out of the land of the living / Can the leopard change his spots? / The parting of the ways / Man shall not live by bread alone / Get thee behind me Satan / The salt of the earth / Hide your light under a bushel / Turn the other cheek / Go the extra mile / Wolf in sheep’s clothing / Sign of the times / Den of thieves / I wash my hands of it / Suffer the little children / the Prodigal son / physician heal thyself / cast the first stone / Jesus wept / Doubting Thomas / Road to Damascus / A law unto himself / Through a glass darkly / The root of all evil / Fight the good fight / Armageddon.
- **BUT there’s also a second (and better) answer for why we’re here – one that all children of God will testify to.**
 - Reflected in an image I found whilst browsing a photography blog several years ago: 
 - “The Bible: What a grand old book this is, how beautiful every link fits in [with] each other. It may well be called the Book of Books. It is a library of 66 books and written by at least 39 authors. Some little men have tried to blow it to pieces with their little penny popguns, but like Gibraltar it stands unmoved and without a scratch!”
 - What a beautiful summary:
 - Spelling mistakes, not very academic, etc.
 - AND YET – like the Psalmist, a heartfelt outpouring of *affection* for (and *delight in*) the Word.
 - **LOOK:** Ps 119:11 / 25 / 28 / 105 / 162

“I beg of you, my dear brother, to live among these books, to meditate upon them, to know nothing else, to seek nothing else. Does not such a life seem to you a foretaste of heaven here on earth?” [Jerome – *Letter LIII.X*]

[1B] The Bible – God’s Kind Self-Revelation, Our Treasure

- **Again, the Bible is not just ‘a’ book; it is the “Book of Books”.**
 - We’re not primarily here because the Bible is culturally significant.
 - Milton’s *Paradise Lost* / Homer’s *Odyssey* / Boethius’ *The Consolation of Philosophy* (massively impactful)
- **We’re here because God – our joy + treasure – has spoken.**
 - “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God*” [Matt 4:4]
 - We savour it as if our lives depended on it.
 - [[RE: VIDEO OF CHINESE CHRISTIANS]]
- **Remember what we said before – our being here this afternoon is primarily a worshipful act!**
 - The study of exegesis doesn’t start ‘up here’, but ‘in here’:
 - “Exegesis is the farthest thing from pedantry; exegesis is an act of love. It is loving the one enough who speaks the words to get the words right. It is respecting the words enough to use every means we have to get the words right. Exegesis is loving God enough to stop and listen carefully to what he says. God has provided us with these scriptures that present us with his Word. Loving God means loving both what God speaks to us and the way God speaks to us. ... [For] Lovers savour the words, relishing every nuance of what is said and written” [Eugene Peterson – *Living the Message*]

[1C] Our Purpose Today: Establishing Principles for Exegesis

- **Just so we’re clear – what exactly does exegesis mean?**
 - **DISCUSS:** What would be your definition?
 - ἐξηγέομαι [*exēgéomai* – ‘I explain, interpret’]
 - ἐξ [*ex* – ‘out’] + ἡγέομαι [*hēgéomai* – ‘I lead, guide’]
 - “Reading the text to find out what’s there” [Carson] – opposite is ‘eisegesis’ (*eis*: read into).
 - **LOOK:** Acts 17:10-11
 - The Berean spirit!
- **Today we’re going to be establishing some practical, everyday principles for handling the Word.**
 - There’s SO much we *could* go into!
 - Historical-critical method / Theological hermeneutics / Reader response / etc.
 - BUT – our focus today is streamlined + straightforward.
 - To help you read and share the Bible.
 - Please do be patient with me!
 - Ask questions – re: future session if need be.

[2] Scripture on Scripture: Authoritative, Wise, Challenging

Let's begin with how Scripture itself describes Scripture.

DISCUSS: Can you think of any relevant passages?

- “[From] childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work” [2 Tim 3:15-17]
 - **Authoritative and sufficient for salvation, wisdom.**
 - “[You] should remember the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets, and the commandment of the Lord and Saviour spoke through your apostles” [2 Pet 3:2]
- “Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart” [Heb 4:12]
 - **Not just ‘breathed out’ (past tense), but still breathing!**
 - “[No] prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God” [2 Pet 1:20-21]

[2A] Also Scriptural – ‘Scripture Can Be Challenging’!

- **BUT – I find one particular moment when Scripture describes itself remarkably helpful.**
 - **LOOK:** 2 Pet 3:14-16 – why is this so helpful?
 - [1] In keeping with 2 Pet 3:2, Paul is scripture.
 - [2] More than this – Peter himself, “this can be hard!”
 - You really do have those moments with Paul:
 - “In the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor man independent of woman” [1 Cor 11:11] – BUT JUST ONE VERSE BEFORE →
 - “A woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels” [1 Cor 11:10] – WHAT?
- **We should not miss the kindness in God inspiring Peter to write those words – “For he knows our frame” [Ps 103:14]**
 - Why? Because many of us do struggle sometimes:
 - BS’ *Taking the Pulse* 2008 – OT especially difficult.
 - BS’ *You + Your Bible* 2016 – specifically difficult books [Lev/Num/Rev/Song/Lam]
 - ALSO: people were asked to describe Bible [“challenging”; “daunting”; “impenetrable”].
 - Almost like if we admit this, we fear we’re ‘bad Christians’!
 - **BUT AGAIN: it’s love for God that motivates us.**
 - “Perfect love casts out fear” [1 John 4:18]

[2B] The Challenges of Studying Scripture

- **DISCUSS:** In your own study of the Bible, have you found anything specifically difficult or challenging? What challenges do you think we might face when doing exegesis? [2/2]
 - **When I tried to ‘defamiliarise’ myself, a couple of things struck me:**
 - *FIRST:* Gen Y+Z being such an A/V generation.
 - *SECOND:* hardly anyone reads ANE texts anymore.

[2C] Five challenges we face before even arriving at Scripture.

- **[1] Canon**
 - We’ve received Scripture from Church that’s arranged it.
 - Not always in order of writing (e.g. Job / Gospels).
 - Not always in order of events (e.g. Ezra → Jeremiah).
- **[2] Language**
 - Biblical Hebrew / Aramaic [Ezra/Daniel] / Koine Gk.
 - Easy to underestimate – re: GCSE French dictionaries.
 - Proverbs + idioms present special challenges:
 - E.g. *Bis das, si cito das* – “Twice you are giving, if quickly you are giving”?! Translated as this, no sense.
 - E.g. “Saul went in to cover his feet” [1 Sam 24:3 KJV]
 - NOTE: the Gospels come to us translated once already.
 - Aramaic → Koine Greek.
- **[3] Manuscripts**
 - Rightly said that the NT manuscript evidence is very good.
 - *Caesar’s Gallic War* [c58-50BC] – few decent MSS.
 - NT – 5,700Gk / 8000 Latin / 9000+ misc (Syriac, etc.)
 - Some moments, however, when we need to take our time.
 - E.g. John 7:53-8:11 (adultery) / Mark 16:9-16.
- **[4] Culture**
 - One example might be the opening of epistles – but best example are the genealogies:
 - “The importance of genealogies is easy for modern readers to underestimate. In antiquity, lineage was not only a source of pride, but also... a claim to authority, to place, to political or civil rights, various social roles, or even the right to speak. ... To have a written pedigree, and especially a long one, was a mark of honour. It encoded the information people needed to know in order to place themselves and others properly in the social order” [B. Malina & R. Rohrbaugh – *Social-Science Commentary* (On Matt 1:1-17)]
- **[5] Traditions**
 - I.e. none of us come to the text of Scripture ‘cold’.

[2D] Four challenges we face when we start getting stuck into it!

- **[1] Genre**
 - As above, we're not dealing with ONE book – but a library.
 - You wouldn't read *Winnie the Pooh* as you would *Bob's Bumper Book of Engine Repairs...!*
 - Sometimes it's really helpful to identify groups of books.
 - E.g. Synoptic Gospels + 'telescoping'.
- **[2] Sense**
 - Q: "Do you read the Bible literally?" A: It depends.
 - **LOOK:** Ps 91:14 / **LOOK:** Ps 91:3
 - Both saying the same thing – in different 'modes'.
 - This isn't always easy but it's necessary.
 - Common in Church history to look for layered senses.
 - Historical / Allegorical / Tropological / Anagogical
 - Song of Solomon / Mary as Eve / Eden rivers, Gospels
 - Not always invalid – BUT Matt 11:25 – plain sense.
- **[3] Audience**
 - **LOOK:** Exo 6:8 / **DISCUSS:** Is this for us?
 - ON THE ONE HAND: there's a covenantal distinction.
 - ON THE OTHER: Matt 5:17 – there's fulfilment.
- **[4] Application**
 - An understandably important question for many of us:
 - "What does this mean for me? For my family?"
 - There are, however, a couple of points here.
 - [A] The Bible can't be reduced to a fridge magnet.
 - **LOOK:** 2 Tim 4:13 – a command, have you done it?!
 - "O LORD, you have searched me and known me... You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" [Ps 139:1+13] → BUT THEN →
 - "O that you would kill the wicked, O God" [v13]!
 - [B] The Bible speaks INTO some things, OVER others.
 - Should we drink + drive? Why not?
 - **KEY:** The Bible is given to make us wise! [Pawson]

These are the factors that we need to be aware of as good exegetes.

BUT LOOK: John 14:26-27 – we are not alone in this!

[A] The Bible ISN'T just like any other old book / [B] God is WITH us!

[3] Our Aim: To Learn Seven Everyday Principles for Exegesis

With the time that's left, we'll be establishing 7 exegetical principles.

1. **Read the Bible:** *On Your Knees*
2. **Read the Bible:** *Together*
3. **Read the Bible:** *In Many Accents*
4. **Read the Bible:** *In IMAX Perspective*
5. **Read the Bible:** *In Widescreen Perspective*
6. **Read the Bible:** *Like Sherlock Holmes*
7. **Read the Bible:** *Like a Window*

Some obvious, some not – but all of them will make sense eventually. Indeed, we can establish the first two principles straightaway!

LOOK: 1 Cor 2:12-16

- *“Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. 13 And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. 14 Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 15 Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else’s scrutiny. 16 ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?’ But we have the mind of Christ” [1 Cor 2:12-16]*
 - **DISCUSS:** What are your thoughts? What do we learn here?
 - The HS delights in helping us understand God’s gifts.
 - We understand God’s gifts together, sharing the mind of Christ.

Hence Our First Two Principles:

Principle [1]: *Read the Bible On Your Knees*

Principle [2]: *Read the Bible Together*

I don't care if these feel too 'obvious' or 'pious'.
 Fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.
 So let's start by putting this into practice, together.
 →→ [[PRAYER]] ←←

[4] Learning Exegesis: Our First Case Study – John 3:16

We're now going to get 'stuck into' exegesis for ourselves.

For a long while I wondered what passage we could look at.

Then suddenly it hit me – it just had to be this one text. (Guess!)

- *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”*
[John 3:16]
 - Highlights another challenge when studying Scripture – that of familiarity!
 - God can and does defamiliarise us by his Spirit.
 - BUT he also uses exegesis to ‘peel away’ years of autopilot and over-familiarity.

[4A] John 3:16 in Different Translations

- **DISCUSS:** in groups, read John 3:16 in these translations. [2/2]
 - **Take note of subtle variations.**
 - Ask yourselves if they make a substantial difference.
 - A sample of translations:
 - **CEB:** “God so loved the world that he gave his **only Son**, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life”
 - **CEV:** “**God loved the people of this world so much** that he gave his **only Son**, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and **never really die**”
 - **ESV:** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his **only Son**, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life”
 - **GNT:** “**For God loved the world so much** that he gave his **only Son**, so that everyone who believes in him **may not die** but have eternal life”
 - **HCSB:** “**For God loved the world in this way:** He gave his **One and Only Son**, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life”
 - **KJV:** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his **only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”
 - **NASB:** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his **only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life”
 - **NIV:** “For God so loved the world that he gave his **one and only Son**, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”
 - **NLT:** “**For this is how God loved the world:** he gave his **one and only Son**, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life”
 - **NRSV:** “For God so loved the world that he gave his **only Son**, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life”
 - “This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person’s failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.” [MSG]

Our Third Principle: **Principle [3]: *Read the Bible in Many Accents***

[4B] Discussing the Use of Translations

- **We spoke before about the Biblical languages.**
 - Again, it's easy to underestimate the process of translation – it always involves a value judgement and process.
 - E.g. *Kai theos en ho logos* – ‘and God was the Word’.
 - BUT – some questions remain.
- **FIRST: does this mean that all of us should learn Greek?**
 - There's certainly nothing wrong with learning the Biblical languages – i.e. if you're keen, go for it! It's not impossible.
 - “Insofar as we have the gospel, to that same extent, let us study the ancient tongues” [Luther]
 - BUT – Christianity is not Islam, Gk+Heb is not Arabic.
 - Re: the Great Commission – God intends translation.
- **SECOND: how do we choose from so many translations?**
 - Dynamic vs. Formal Equivalence.
 - NASB / KJV / NKJV / ESV / RSV / NRSV / NIV / TNIV / CEB / NLT / GNT / Living / Passion / MSG
 - My suggestion?
 - Pick an accessible formal as your main devotional.
 - Pick a sound dynamic as your secondary.
 - When studying, ‘read in many accents’.

[4C] Back to John 3:16 – Considering the ‘Big Picture’

- **DISCUSS:** Think about *where* we're reading this familiar verse. What sort of book is it in? How does it differ from other books of the Bible? Where does this moment fit within the whole book?
 - **E.g. if I want to understand Chester, I need to know:**
 - It's a city → within England → within UK → etc.
 - (A ‘google earth’ view of John 3:16!)
- **Applying that to John 3:16:**
 - It's in the Gospel of John – not epistle, poetry, psalms, etc.
 - Beginning of Gospel – follows temple cleansing.
 - Precedes the Samaritan woman, re: world, whosoever.

Our Fourth Principle: **Principle [4]: *Read the Bible in IMAX Perspective***

[4D] Still on John 3:16 – Considering the ‘Larger Unit’

- **DISCUSS:** In groups, nominate someone to read John 3 out loud.
 - What’s happening in this chapter? How does v16 fit within the whole?
 - Is v16 ‘qualified’ or ‘illuminated’ by anything immediately surrounding it, or by anything else in the chapter?
- **What are we teaching ourselves here?**
 - **FIRST:** the chapter and verse divisions are *tools*, not *rules*!
 - Today’s chapters by Stephen Langton [1205AD]
 - Today’s verses by Robert Estienne [1551AD]
 - (Re: suffering servant starts Isa 52:13 not 53:1.)
 - **SECOND:** *Sacra Scriptura sui ipsius interpretres*.
 - “Sacred Scripture is the interpreter of its very self”
 - **THIRD:** faith comes by hearing.
 - The importance of being an audible reader, re: Aug.
- **So what do we learn by applying this to John 3:16?**
 - **[A] The context? Jesus is talking to Nicodemus, a Pharisee.**
 - Crucially important to John – **LOOK:** John 1:11
 - What’s just happened? The temple in John 2:13-25.
 - John 10 – Shepherd against Shepherds (Ezek 34:10).
 - **[B] The immediately subsequent verses are crucial:**
 - Contra fridge magnets – love AND judgement [v18].
 - **[C] Later verses establish John’s ‘Christocentricism’:**
 - “*He must increase, but I must decrease*” [v30]
 - “*The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in his hands*” [v35]
 - **[D] Most importantly, v15 explains v16:**
 - Referencing Numbers 21:8 – rebellious Israelites.
 - The ‘so loved’ is primarily a demonstrative, not a superlative – i.e. “in the same way...”
 - (Also highlights *tota scriptura*, not just *sola scriptura*)

Our Fifth Principle:

Principle [5]: *Read the Bible in Widescreen Perspective*

Our Sixth Principle:

Principle [6]: *Read the Bible like Sherlock Holmes*

[4E] Still on John 3:16 – Investigating Key Details

- **DISCUSS:** Look specifically at John 3:16 now – what word, idea, or theme stands out to you?
 - What might be good to investigate further?
 - Like Sherlock Holmes, be on the lookout for clues.
- **What are we teaching ourselves here?**
 - **FIRST:** how to be an ‘active reader’.
 - Absolutely imperative that you’re not passive.
 - **SECOND:** the ‘green thumbs’ principle.
 - We must first ask how the AUTHOR uses a word or approaches an idea.
 - **THIRD:** most importantly, how to have an adventure!
 - “We must read our Bibles like men digging for hidden treasure” [J.C. Ryle – *Comm. On John*]
- **So what do we discover when we ‘dig up’ John 3:16?**
 - **[A] ‘Love’ – ἀγαπάω [agapaō / agga-pah-oh]**
 - **LOOK:** John 17:23 – a Triune love that spills out.
 - **[B] ‘World’ – κόσμος [kósmos / koz-moss]**
 - **LOOK:** John 1:10-11 – Creator amongst rebel creatures.
 - **[C] ‘Believe’ – πιστεύω [pisteúō / pisstwo-oh]**
 - **LOOK:** John 6:29 – God’s work (contra the leaders).
 - **[D] ‘Life’ – ζωή [zōē / zoh-ay]**
 - **LOOK:** John 11:25 – importance of eschatology.
- **Again – if exegesis is an act of love, then this is like the love of a child.**
 - Playful, childlike, inquisitive, fun, adventurous!
 - **LOOK:** Ps 84:1-2 – Sons and Daughters with a Father who does not hide himself, nor does he turn us away from his presence.

→→ CONCLUSION →→

[5] Conclusion – Final Comments + Suggestions

As we ‘come to land’, there are some final bits and pieces.

[5A] What about when the rules go out the window?

- **Consider the Book of Philemon, for example.**
 - Seemingly evades several of our core principles:
 - A very short letter – just 25 verses.
 - Not a narrative, no obvious OT references, etc.
- **Above all, Philemon highlights importance of Principle [6].**
 - We must be like Sherlock Holmes at a crime scene – i.e. “What happened here?”
 - *“So that you might have [Onesimus] back to you forever, no longer as a slave...”* [Philemon 1:15-16]
 - Like any crime scene – “Why did this happen? What am I missing?”
 - Paul’s being very clever – even sneaky!
 - Emphasising love, brotherhood, prisoner in X, etc.
- **Reminds us to look for the humanity in the Biblical texts.**
 - Especially in Paul’s letters. For example:
 - Sarcasm (super apostles in 2 Cor) / Anger (castrate in Gal) / Rhetorical questions (‘shall we sin’ in Rom).

[5B] What about if we don’t even know where to start?

- **I get asked this a lot – some suggestions.**
 - [1] Avoid lucky dip:
 - Sometimes works (re: Augustine) – but not usually.
 - [2] Just do something:
 - Don’t stress the details, you never do if you don’t.
 - [3] Several books of particular significance to ‘big story’:
 - E.g. Gen/Exo/Isa/John/Rom/Eph
 - [4] If absolutely pressed:
 - Read the Gospel of Mark, preferably out loud.
 - Maybe even in one sitting – takes about an hour.
 - Aim for a physical Bible.

[5C] What are some good, helpful resources for exegesis?

- **Some helpful tools:**
 - Special Bibles:
 - E.g. ESV study Bible / Amplified Bible / Reader Bibles / Chronological / Audio bibles.
 - Biblical tools:
 - E.g. Gospel parallels / Biblical charts + maps / Bible dictionaries / Biblegateway.com.
 - Original language tools:
 - E.g. Strong's Concordance / Blueletterbible.org / Greekbible.com / Interlinear Bibles / Nestle-Aland Gk NT.
 - *Duff's Elements of NT Greek / Dobson's Learn New Testament Greek + Learn Biblical Hebrew.*
- **Some helpful books:**
 - Various books on Biblical exegesis itself:
 - Barton et al – *Cambridge Companion to Biblical Interpretation*
 - Cox – *How to Read the Bible*
 - Croft – *Storylines: Your Map to Understanding the Bible*
 - Evans – *Using the Bible*
 - Fee & Stuart – *How to Read the Bible For All Its Worth*
 - Gorman – *Elements of Biblical Exegesis*
 - Hayes & Holladay – *Biblical Exegesis*
 - MacArthur – *How to Study the Bible*
 - Moody – *How to Study the Bible*
 - Pawson – *Unlocking the Bible*
 - Piper – *Reading the Bible Supernaturally*
 - Poythress – *Reading the Word of God in the Presence of God*
 - Wright – *Scripture and the Authority of God*
 - Various commentaries on the Bible:
 - E.g. Word Biblical / NICNT / NIGTC / Anchor / Black's / Baker Exegetical / 'For Everyone' series.
- **Some helpful videos:**
 - How to study your Bible [2.10.37]- Bible Centre Church - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSMIXh9SFa4>
 - Biblical exegesis [25.26] - Sproul + Carson - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OlZV40mBNDs>
 - Reading the Bible [11.43] - NT Wright - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W92Zt6jLwvQ>
 - How to study your Bible [15.32] - Impact video Ministries - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0xUCQK_m0&list=PL0A13s_gMBQCUOrh_vsxde6mYeQZsvVZB
- **BUT MOST OF ALL – get a pen!**
 - Re: Edwards' 'Blank Bible'.

Finally – the eagle-eyed will have noticed no seventh principle!

LOOK: John 5:37-39

Our Seventh Principle:

Principle [7]: *Read the Bible like it's a Window*

We delight in exegesis because we're delighting in Christ.

All things created in him and for him.

All given to the Son, so that the Son might be made all in all.

We love the Scriptures not for the sake of ink + paper – but because by the Spirit, we encounter our joy and treasure.