

## 1 II-A The inductive method of Bible study

- All Bible study begins with and depends on the Holy Spirit for illumination into his Word
- A prayerful and thoughtful approach to Bible study is indispensable to the process
- The inductive method of study will be useful for our purpose in this class

## 2 The inductive method

- **Observation:** What does the passage say
  - Ask basic “who, what, when, where, how, why” questions
  - Determine whether the passages purpose, eg ask questions such as “Is it meant to be instructive or informative?”
- **Observation is the foundation which must be laid if you want to accurately interpret and properly apply God's Word.**
  - **Interpretation:** What does the passage mean? And the basis for accurate interpretation is always careful observation. Interpretation is the process of discovering what the passage means.
  - **Application:** How does the meaning of this passage apply to me?
  - Let's look at these three steps in more detail.

## 3 Observation of the text

- Read the passage and its context
- Who, what, where, how, and when
- Is this information, instruction for Christian living, or theological truth?
- Does the text pertain to God or man?
- How does it compare to similar passages?
- Careful observation is the foundation which must be laid if you want to accurately interpret and properly apply God's Word.

## 4 Interpretation of the text

- “What is the message or point the author is making about money?”
- What is God trying to say through this passage?
- Is the intent to be an example, information, or instructive for Christian living or theology truth?
- How does it relate to other similar passages?
- Is my interpretation consistent with what I know of God's character and how he has revealed himself in other parts of Scripture? If it is not and it seems contradictory, then more study will be required.
- Regarding this course and our study of wealth and money, if you believe there is no teaching about money, move on to the next text

## 5 Application

- Consider some changes to your life as a result of the principles you have discovered.
- 
- List questions, problems, or topics for further study

## 6 Category

- Our resulting list of random principles derived from our study is not a very useful body of knowledge in its present form
- Into order to make our list more useful, we will decide on one or more categories for each principle
- This body of knowledge can be used for developing a biblical world view towards money and wealth
- It will also provide a systematic way of teaching others about this subject

## 7 Consolidate the categories

- Group all passages in a given category together and give the list a topical heading
- Make a list of the dominate or primary themes for each topic.
- Extract key principles for each. You are now systematizing Biblical teaching about money or wealth into a body of knowledge.

## 8 Consistency check

- Are the principles consistent with what you know about God, his character, and his plan for our lives?
- Are there examples in scripture that support or contradict your hypotheses?
- Are the principles consistent with each other?