How to approach studying the Bible

1. *Read the entire book: Establish author, audience and context (completed)*
2. Read the chapter: Identify the message being communicated
3. Identify questions that you want to have answered: Use resources to find answers.
4. Read the chapter: Identify the message being communicated
5. Map the audience & message: Apply the message to your life
6. Compare your conclusions with others: Trace back any differences to the text

Session 3: Understanding Chapter 2

Objective: Identify the message of Chapter 2 and apply it as God's word spoken into our lives.

Step Two: Read the chapter and identify the message Paul is communicating to Titus

Theological Truth:

- God's grace has appeared and saved us (from God's wrath which is the penalty for sin) and changed everything about us
- From ungodliness and worldly passions - to self-controlled, upright and godly

Spiritual Outcome:

- The word of God is not mocked by unbelievers
- Opponents of God's work may be put to shame and not prevail against the church
- In all things, the doctrine of God our Savior is made beautiful (adorned)

Practical Living

- How should older men behave?
- How should mature women behave?
- How should young women behave?
- How should young men behave?
- How should slaves behave?
- How should Titus as a church leader behave?

Paul's logic in Titus 2:

- Live Godly Lives (Paul gives practical examples)
- So that the correct Spiritual Outcomes will occur (glory to God and the gospel)
- Thereby fulfilling the Theological Truth (you are being transformed to be pure and a possession of Jesus)

Step Three: Identify and write down any questions that arise out of the chapter. - Use resources to research and answer the questions you've written down.

What is the Doctrine of God our Savior?

- [ESV Study Bible] This is a setup for verses 11-14 which explain the doctrine.
- Paul seems to say "God our Savior" and then refine it later to be "our great God and Savior Jesus Christ". See also 1:3/4, 2:10/13; 3:4/6

Who is the "us" in verse eight?

- I could not find any real explanation of this in my resources, but I suspect it relates to Titus and Paul – representing the apostolic authority of the church.

What kind of training is being described in verse twelve?

- [Interlinear] To train children; to be instructed or taught or learn.

Step Four: Read the chapter and refine the message Paul is communicating to Titus (now that your questions are answered)

Titus must impress on everyone in the church the impact of the doctrine of the great God and Savior Jesus Christ – which is the gospel:

When Jesus **appeared the first time** as the demonstration of God's grace…

- He brought salvation from God's judgment and redeemed us from lives of lawlessness
- Through this salvation and redemption, He is transforming the way we live (showing us how to live differently) so we will be purified, fit for His own possession and eager to do good works

Now we are waiting expectantly for Him to **appear again** in all His glory.

As we wait, we should live lives that:

- Do not let unbelievers make light of (revile) the gospel (word of God)
- Remove the opportunity for anyone to criticize and oppose the work of God
- Exalt the gospel and make it beautiful (adorn it)

Paul outlines how all walks of life should live to demonstrate their transformed lives and reflect the gospel:

- Aged men – Sober, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith & love, steadfast

- Aged women – the same + reverent, not slanderers, not drunken, teachers of the young women
- Young women – love & submit to their husbands, love their children, self-controlled, pure, kind, industrious
- Young men – The same + self-controlled
- Slaves – submissive to masters, pleasing, not argumentative, not stealing, showing good faith
- Titus himself as a leader – model good works, show integrity, dignity and sound speech.

Step Five part 1: Map the Audience (how much and in what ways is Titus like us today?)
Review and confirm the previous mapping.

Titus is a believer, living under the power of the gospel, pursuing the mission of the church:

- Theologically he is very close to me.

Titus is acting on Paul's instruction and apostolic authority and oversees setting up churches

- Vocationally he is distant from me, but the things he is charged to do (setting up a healthy church) have direct application to me and represent principles I must honor.

The believers in the churches on Crete are also an audience.

- In this passage, I think I hear Paul speaking directly to them through Titus. They are very similar to me in that they have the same relationship to the Gospel as I do.

Step Five part 2: Map the message to apply to me today

- What commands must I obey?
- What truth must I hold dear?
- What error must I flee?
- How is God revealed?
- How is the gospel made clear?

- What actions can I take in the next 7 days that will demonstrate what I said above is real?

What commands must I obey?

- Live in a way that brings honor and praise to the gospel and the Savior who paid for it. Many specific examples are detailed.

What truth must I hold dear?

- The gospel has saved me and changed me so that now I pursue purity and good works to be a fitting possession of Jesus Christ Himself.

What error must I flee?

- No error addressed in this chapter

How is God revealed?

- God is revealed through Jesus who has appeared in the flesh and will appear again in all the glory of God

How is the gospel made clear?

- The doctrine of God our Savior clearly lays out the entire gospel. Jesus appeared for the purpose of redeeming us. We who are redeemed should live transformed lives. Jesus is going to come again, and we wait eagerly for that.

What actions can I take in the next 7 days that will demonstrate what I said above is real?

- Reflection: In what areas is my life falling short of the purity befitting a possession of Jesus Christ? Make a list and pray daily for gospel power to begin to change those areas.