

## **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**

# The inductive method

[Biblestudytools.com](http://Biblestudytools.com)

- **Observation: What does the passage say**
  - ▶ (who, what, when, where, why)?
  - ▶ Is the passage 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 answers the question: How does the meaning of this passage apply to me? Once you know what a passage means, you are not only responsible for putting it into practice in your own life, but accountable if you don't! Ultimately, then, the goal of personal Bible study is a transformed life and a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ.**

# Interpretation of the text

- For each observation, answer the question “What is the message or point the author is making about money?”
- Is the intent to be an example, information, or instructive for Christian living or theology truth?
- How does it relate to other similar passages?
- If there is no teaching about money, make a note and move to the next text

# Application

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

# 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

# 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.**

# 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?