

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

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■ 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?