

II-A The inductive method of Bible study

- a. All Bible study begins with and depends on the Holy Spirit for illumination into his Word
 - b. A prayerful and thoughtful approach to Bible study is indispensable to the process
 - c. The inductive method of study will be useful for our purpose in this class
2. The inductive method
- a. Observation: What does the passage say
 - i. (who, what, when, where, why)?
 - ii. Is the passage instructive or informative?
 - b. Observation is the foundation which must be laid if you want to accurately interpret and properly apply God's Word.
 - c. 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
 - d. 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.
3. Category
- i. Intervarsity.org
 - b. We will decide on one or more categories for each application
 - c. Our reason for doing this is to be able to turn a somewhat random survey of a number of Scriptures into a useful body of knowledge
 - d. This body of knowledge can be used for developing a Biblical world view towards money and wealth
 - e. It will provide a systematic way of teaching others about this subject
4. Interpretation of the text
- a. For each observation, answer the question "What is the message or point the author is making about money?"
 - b. Is the intent to be an example, information, or instructive for Christian living or theology truth?
 - c. How does it relate to other similar passages?
 - d. If there is no teaching about money, make a note and move to the next text
5. Consolidate the categories
- a. Group all passages in a given category together and give the list a topical heading
 - b. Make a list of the dominate or primary themes for each topic.
 - c. Extract key principles for each. You are now systematizing Biblical teaching about money or wealth into a body of knowledge.
6. Application
- a. Consider some changes to your life as a result of the principles you have discovered
 - b. List questions, problems, or topics for further study
7. Consistency check
- a. Are the principles consistent with what you know about God, his character, and

his plan for our lives?

- b. Are there examples in scripture that support or contradict your hypotheses?
- c. Are the principles consistent with each other?