

## **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**
  - 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.**

# 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.**

# 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

# 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?