**Part 2: Seven Questions for Good Understanding and Application**

**of the Bible**

**Q 1. What kind of literature is this passage?**

Review 2 Timothy 2:15.

* What does this passage tell us that God wants us to do with his Word?

The Bible contains many different types of literature.

Read, for example, Leviticus 19:27 and John 15:17.

* Why is it important to recognize which type of literature we are reading?

The eight most common types of literature are:

1. Stories
2. Law
3. Poetry (especially Psalms and Proverbs)
4. Prophecy
5. Sayings of Jesus
6. Parables of Jesus
7. Letters or Epistles
8. Apocalyptic (especially the book of Revelation)

**Q 2. What does the context of this passage tell us that we need to know?**

(What verses or chapters before and/or after this passage help us understand its meaning? How does it fit in the context of the whole book? How does it fit in the context of all Scripture pointing us to Jesus?)

Read Deuteronomy 29:29.

* What does this passage tell us about God?
* What does this passage tell us about people?
* What does this passage tell us about God’s Word?
* What does this passage tell us that God wants us to do with his Word?
* What is the importance of the word “all” in this verse (biblical context)?
* What will you do to obey one thing God has told you through this passage?

**Q 3:   What was God saying through this passage to the *original* audience?**

Read 2 Peter 1:19-21.

* What does this passage tell us about God?
* What does this passage tell us about people?
* What does this passage tell us about God’s Word?
* How does this passage describe the relationship between God as the originator of Scripture, and human authors of Scripture?
* How will this understanding affect your interpretation of what human authors were communicating to their *original* audience?
* In light of this passage, what role does God intend the Holy Spirit to play in your interpretation of Scripture?
* What will you do to obey one thing God has told you through this passage?

**Q 4:   What *general principle* does God intend through this passage for all times, people and cultures?**

Read 1 Peter 1:24-25.

* What does this passage tell us about people?
* What does this passage tell us about God’s Word?
* As we read biblical messages given for specific people and contexts, how can we identify what parts are meant only for that context? How can we discern God’s *eternal principles*, which are true and relevant for all cultures and all people?
* What role does the Holy Spirit have in this process?
* What will you do to obey one thing God has told you through this passage?

**Q 5:   What does God want me to obey? (I will…)**

Read James 1:22-25.

* What does this passage tell us about people?
* What does this passage tell us about God’s Word?
* What does this passage tell us about taking action based on God’s Word?
* What role does God intend the Holy Spirit to play in your obedience to Scripture?
* What will you do to obey one thing God has told you through this passage?

**Q 6:   What might God want our community of believers to obey together?**

Read Hebrews 10:23-25.

* What does this passage tell us about God?
* What does this passage tell us about people?
* What does this passage tell us about God’s Word?
* What does this passage tell us about the importance of other believers for our growth in Christ?
* What will you do to obey one thing God has told you through this passage?

**Q 7:   How does God want me to effectively convey the truths of this passage to people around me (believers and unbelievers)?**

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5.

* What does this passage tell us about God?
* What does this passage tell us about people?
* What does this passage tell us about sharing God’s Word with others?
* What role does God intend the Holy Spirit to play in your sharing of his Word?
* What will you do to obey one thing God has told you through this passage?

Note: we can communicate more effectively to people (both believers and unbelievers) if we ask ourselves a few questions:

* Why do they believe the way they do?
* Why do they think the way they do?
* What might hinder them from understanding and receiving God’s truth that I want to share?
* What things are important to them?
* What things are interesting to them?
* What things shape their worldview (the way they think about all of life and how things work)?
* What kinds of ideas influence them and their decision-making process?