

Script Module 7: Commentaries

Precious One; you have stayed the course and now you are ready to sit a spell and just drink in what others have found to be true about this passage you are studying. It will encourage you and enlighten you to see that your work is bearing fruit as you see that these same masters have gleaned much of what you too have gleaned. Remember the world is gasping for air and you have the answer. You have been given the most incredible tools available through the power of the internet. It is at your fingertips and the Holy Spirit wants to guide you so that you would burn with the passion of Elijah and John the Baptist. Therefore now is the time to stop and consider our objectives for listening and reading the works of others. Here are at least six objectives I think are worthy of our time. Take time to ponder each one before reviewing the gifts I have given you on the slide presentation.

Objective 1: As learners, we should have as our primary objective to relinquish the trapping of the culture around us and have as a desire to think and respond in the ways of Jehovah. The culture around is a culture of death but we have the gift of life living within us. Men and women who have gone before us have shed their blood as martyrs for placing in our hands the truths that they have gleaned from their studies. Therefore we want to take time to recognize the value of these scholars yet delay their instructive wisdom until the Holy Spirit has instructed us. The Holy Spirit wants us to be changed in our thinking and not to rely upon the scholars of ages past who were changed. They were willing to stand up and be counted for the truth that they saw and they want this same passion to begin burning within us as well.

Objective 2: As learners, another objective should be that we become proficient in the the modified inductive study method as well as the taxonomy of learning designed by Benjamin Bloom. What is our/your goal? Is it to be able to determine such things as the content of a passage, types of questions that will develop higher level critical thinking skills, learn how to make divisions, subject sentences; ascertain scriptural principles and aims; and lastly develop application questions? Or are you satisfied to just borrow another's ideas? Are you willing to pay the price of study so you become a master student?

Objective 3: As learners, you should have as your objective that you are doing exegesis and not eisegesis. Here is the difference for you to meditate on so that you can determine where you are in this flow.

a. exegesis: Are you able to draw out the meaning of a given text objectively? **exegesis** (*plural* exegeses) Are you able to write something close to a formal written exposition or if asked to write a simple explanatory essay of the scripture you are studying. In other words could you accurately explain the truths that are being taught in this passage?

b.eisegesis: Are you reading your own interpretation into a given text subjectively. **eisegesis** (*plural eiseges*) Are you reflecting your personal ideas or viewpoint and perhaps even reading something into a text that isn't there.

Let me give you a simple explanation:

Exegesis means that you have objectively analyzed significant words in the text in regard to translation, examined the cultural and historical content; confirmed the limits of the passage and lastly examined it within the context of the text.

Whereas, Eisegesis is subjectively explaining in your own words what the passage is saying based on the information you subjectively acquired during your study of this passage and similar passages that treat the same subject matter. You say, I think it means this. On the flip side you want to be able to say it means this based upon evidence. Really, Precious One, it does not matter one "hoot" what *you* think, what matters is what the Holy Spirit thinks, recalls to your mind and gives you clear evidences of this to someone if asked. Which then is a reminder of what Peter said "be ready always to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess" [1Pet 3:15] So where are you in this study pattern? **Remember this Number One Rule: : "CONTEXT IS KING"!**

Objective 4: It is critical as learners, that we wean ourselves from utilizing outside sources such as commentaries and/or other research *at the beginning* our study. You probably wonder why you are encouraged to not turn to commentaries at the beginning of your study and why you have to do so much work on your own. You are probably asking: Haven't others already "plowed the field"? To that we can say yes, many scholars have spent countless hours but if we read their thoughts first are we not then presented with a biased viewpoint? **Remember this Number Two Rule: Commentaries are the thoughts of scholars long ago.** The Holy Spirit wants you to develop 'your' thoughts not theirs. It is much like farming. Do you do better watching or digging in a garden? If you dig, then you have an investment in the plant, but if you only watch the farmer who dug, you don't any investment in the project but rather you must wait until the harvest.

Thus the Key is this: Utilize the skills of other scholars last. These are those who have spent hours researching the passage. Glean from them and their research to assist you in your discovery **after you have done "your part"**.

Objective 5: **Remember this Number Three Rule: As a Bible student you must have total dependence upon the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.** It is He who will teach you and reveal to you the spiritual truths and principles in order that you will be conformed to the image of Christ. Paul writes: "whom he (God) foreknew he (God) also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son," (*Rom 8:29*). This is God's objective and should be ours as well. Think of it in this way. The person without the Holy Spirit is like a lighthouse with a darkened light that is unable to lead a ship to safety amongst the shoals and rocks. So too a person without the light of the Holy Spirit cannot read and understand the Word nor can he/she lead anyone else to "the LIGHT" who is the True Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. "...the heavenly Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (*Luke 11:13*).

Objective 6: Let's review our basic foundational principle: We should have as our primary desire to know intimately the author, Jesus Christ. "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Col 2:3) We can be assured that we who know the author of the Book will be given the treasured nuggets of His wisdom. "But if anyone is deficient in wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without reprimand, and it will be given to him." (Jam 1:5) We also know that for those who do not know the author, treasures will be hidden from their sight. "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing, among whom the god of this age has blinded the minds of those who do not believe so they would not see the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God" (2Co 4:3/4).

Ok so you are still asking me why you have to do all of this. Here's an answer back to you. When you work on calculus or geometry what do you do? You work at it every day and with each day you become more proficient. The same thing holds true for Bible Study. But here are four very good reasons to "do all of this".

1. You have a better grasp of the material and fully understand the content, the aim and can see the scriptural principles
2. It helps you to discover the potential for future teaching possibilities
3. It also provides spiritual enrichment and satisfaction
4. And lastly it is scriptural!

2 Tim 2:15... make every effort to present yourself before God as a proven worker
2 Tim 3:16 every scripture is inspired by God: useful for teaching; reproof; correction; training in righteousness

My Precious One should you say you don't need to do any more study then there are three, no four reasons you are in error:

1. One's growth is dependent upon nutrition just as spiritual growth is dependent upon feeding upon the Word of God lest you be theologically ignorant
2. Hindsight is 20/20, nearsight is 0/0. Do not be scripturally shortsighted
3. Without study you are being disobedient!
4. And lastly, you are grieving the Holy Spirit and quenching His Power

How can you expect the Lord to bless if you will not step out of your clam shell? So with that little lecture aside; Precious Ones, are you ready? Are you enthused about what lies ahead? Are you ready to see that your hard work has its dividends? God will be pleased and you will reap His blessings.

Now here are some tips to ponder before you jump off into "commentary land".

As you read keep these questions before you:

- ▲ What is the main theme of the passage.
- ▲ Are there other passages that have a similar theme or idea?
- ▲ What questions seem to come to your mind as you read?
- ▲ What principles are pointed out that you perhaps missed?
- ▲ What aim(s) do the commentators seem to point out?

- ⤴ Are there applications that you can begin to see and perhaps even implement?
- ⤴ Are there some examples that the commentators point out that should be followed?
- ⤴ Are there promises to claim?
- ⤴ Does this passage now point out sins in need of repentance?
- ⤴ Are there any commands that need obeying?

So are we ready? If your answer is YES then open the slide presentation and follow along with each slide as they are self-explanatory and easily followed. May God show you what He wants you to glean from each one. May you choose wisely in your study as you ponder each slide to reap the truths that are before you from the masters of long ago. Go and be blessed my Precious Ones!