



# The Word

## Truth and Freedom

Peter Tan

» **Review**

» **Truth and Freedom**

» **Getting to know the truth**

- **Having a good grasp of the Word.**
- **Understanding the Word of God.**
  - **Observation**
  - **Interpretation**
  - **Application**

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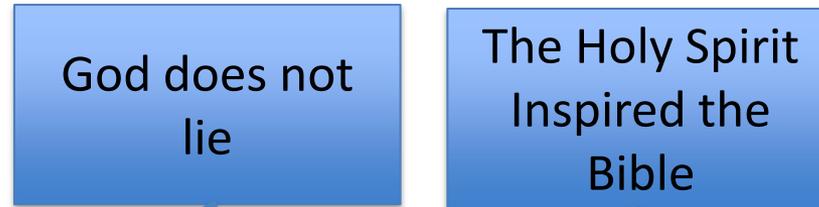
# Review: Is the Bible the Word of God ?

- **Internal Evidence**
  - Inspiration by God
  - Human writers
- **Textual Preservation**
  - Manuscripts – Quantity, Quality, Dates
  - The scribes
- **External Evidence**
  - Archaeology
  - Fulfilled Prophecies
  - Science - cosmology
- **Reliable Testimonies**
  - The Biblical writers
  - Jesus

# Inductive & Deductive Reasoning..

## Reasons to believe

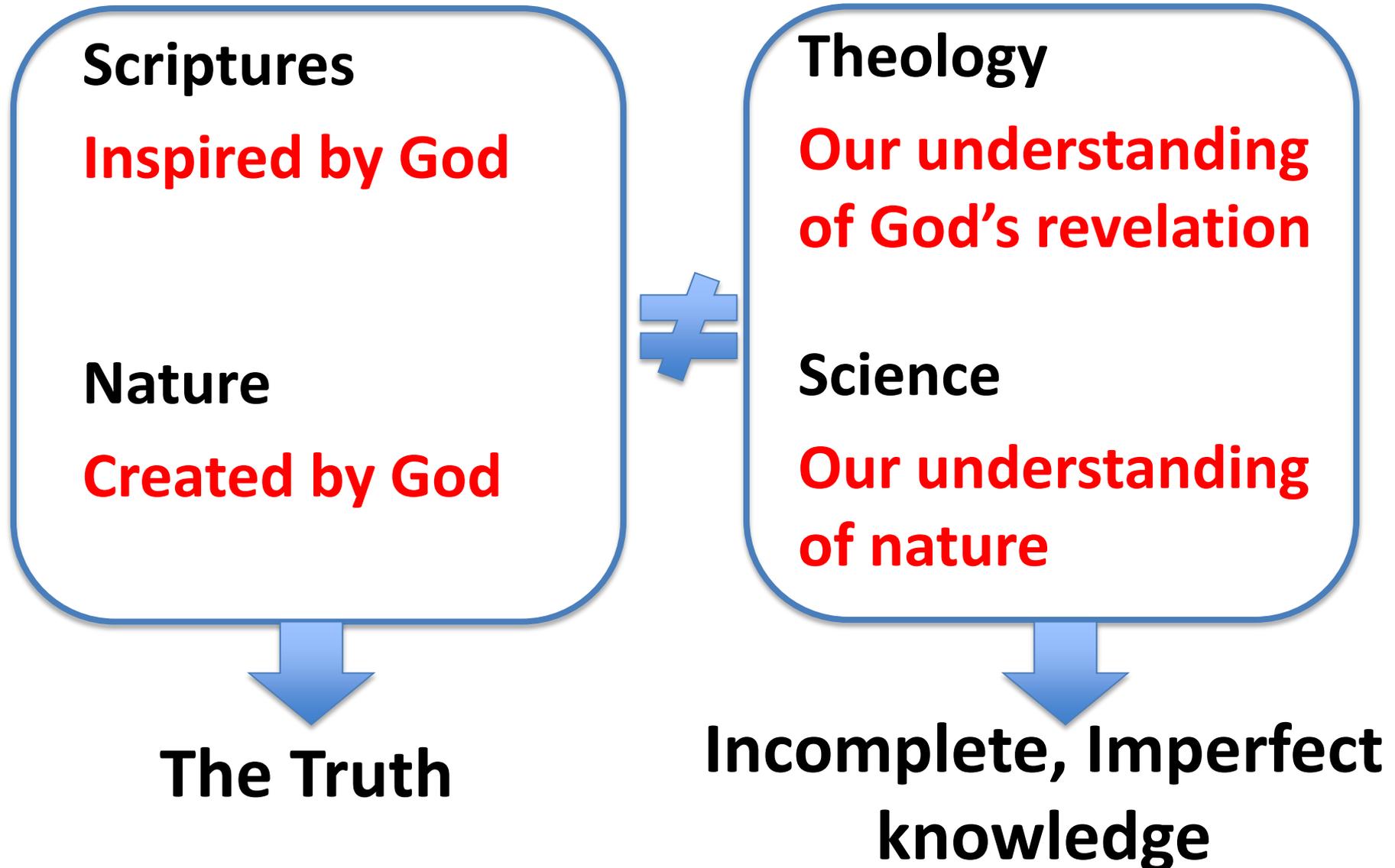
**Deductive  
(top down)**



**Inductive  
(Bottom up)**



# When science contradicts the Bible ?



# The Belgic Confession (1561)

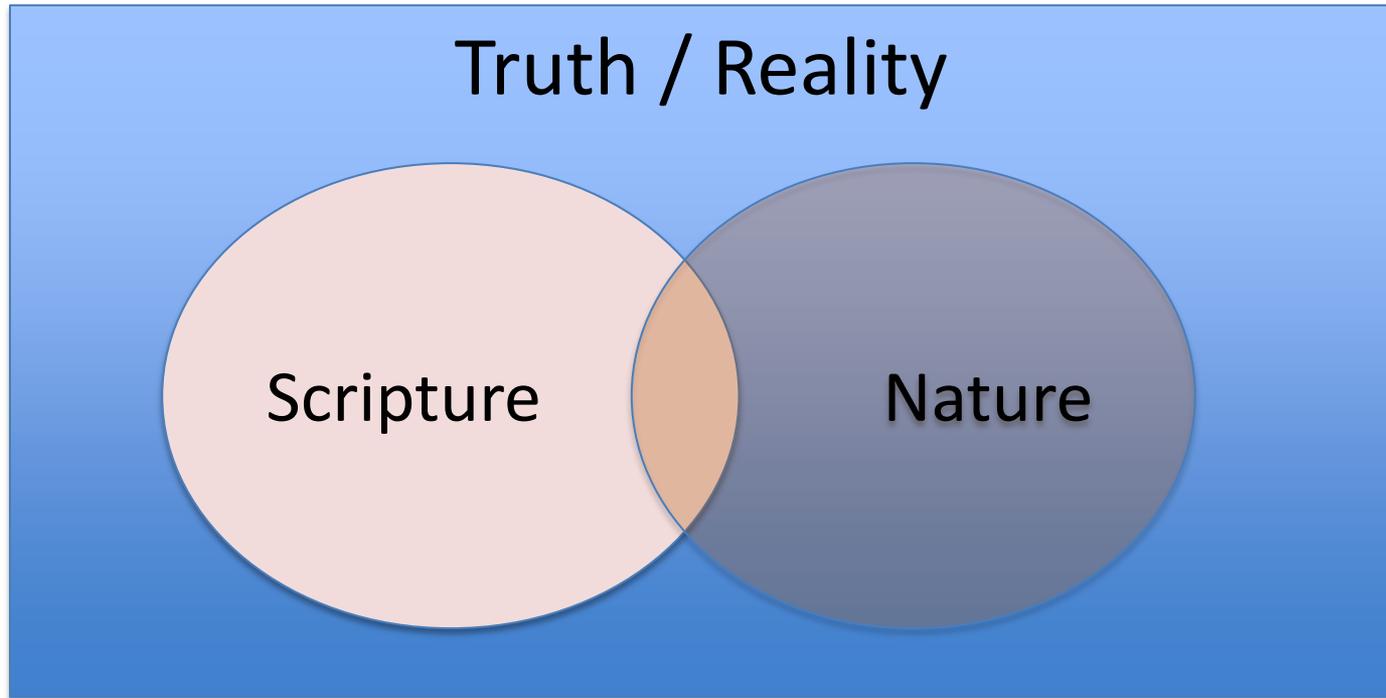
The Belgic Confession, a Protestant doctrinal statement written over 400 years ago, describes the harmony between faith and science:

## **We know God by two means:**

First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God: God's eternal power and divinity, as the apostle Paul says in Romans 1:20. All these things are enough to convict humans and to leave them without excuse.

Second, God makes himself known to us more clearly by his holy and divine Word, as much as we need in this life, for God's glory and for our salvation.

# Book of nature and book of scripture



Properly understood, God's Word (Scripture) and God's world (nature), as two revelations (one verbal, one physical) from the same God, will never contradict each other.

“Theological and natural science held in common the same need to understand reality through our thoughts by pointing beyond ourselves and **not letting our subjective experiences and knowledge distort the objective reality we are attempting to conceptualize.**”



Thomas F. Torrance in  
*Theological Science,*

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# The truth shall set you free

## John 8:31-32

<sup>31</sup> To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If **you hold to my teaching**, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and **the truth will set you free.**”

# CIA Official Motto !



# What is Freedom ?

1. The power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants.
2. The state of not being imprisoned or enslaved.

# Is CIA's interpretation Right ?

- **Correctly Quoted?**
- **Correct Interpretation?**
  - Know the truth = know the secrets of your enemies & friends. Spying to gain knowledge.
  - Freedom = Power to do whatever you like to the enemy.
- **Correct Application?**
  - Did they “hold on to “ Jesus’ teaching?

# True Freedom

John 8:34, 36

- <sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be **free indeed**.

Romans 6:22

- 22 But now that you have been **set free from sin** and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

# The truth sanctifies

John 17:17

- 17 Sanctify them by[a] the truth; **your word is truth.**
- Footnotes:
- John 17:17 Or them to live in accordance with

# Truth purifies

1 Peter 1:22

- 22 Now that you have **purified yourselves by obeying the truth** so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.[a]

# The Word of God overcomes temptation

Matthew 4:4

- 4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ [a]”

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# Need to “continue” in the Word

- John 8:31
- 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you **abide** in My word, you are My disciples indeed.
  
- John 15:7
- 7 If you abide in Me, and **My words abide in you**, you will[a] ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

# Correctly handles the word of truth.

- 2 Timothy 2:15
- <sup>15</sup> Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who **correctly handles the word of truth.**

# Study to rightly handle the Word

- **2 Timothy 2:15**

- King James Version (KJV +)

- 15 **Study**<sup>G4704</sup> to shew<sup>G3936</sup> thyself<sup>G4572</sup> approved<sup>G1384</sup> unto God,<sup>G2316</sup> a workman<sup>G2040</sup> that needeth not to be ashamed,<sup>G422</sup> **rightly dividing**<sup>G3718</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> word<sup>G3056</sup> of truth <sup>G225</sup>

- G4704 — Strong

- σπουδ ζω

- Spoudazō

- spoo-dad'-zo

- From G4710; to use speed, that is, to make effort, be prompt or earnest: - do (give) diligence, be diligent (forward), endeavour, labour, study.

- G3718 — Strong

- ω

- Orthotomeō

- or-thot-om-eh'-o

- From a compound of G3717 and the base of G5114; to make a straight cut, that is, (figuratively) to dissect (expound) correctly (the divine message): - rightly divide.

# Rightly Dividing...



# Example of Ezra – study, do, then teach

Ezra 7:10

New International Version (NIV)

10 For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

Ezra 7:10

New King James Version (NKJV)

10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.

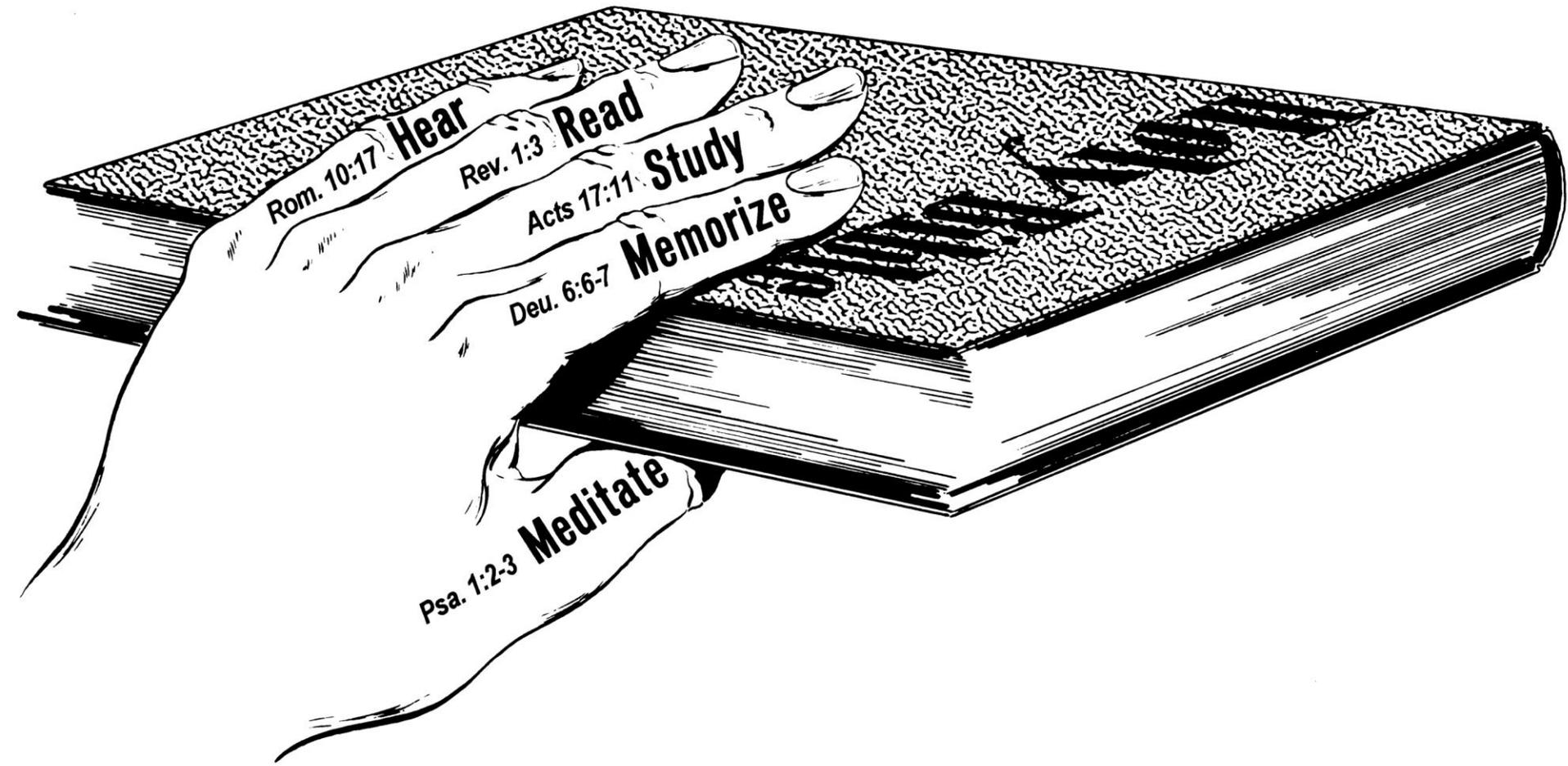
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# How to have a good grasp of the Word



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# Of Noble Character...

Acts 17:11

- <sup>11</sup> Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and **examined the Scriptures every day** to see if what Paul said was true.

# Study = Search for truth

- Acts17:11 These<sup>(G3778)</sup> were<sup>G2258</sup> more noble<sup>G2104</sup> than those<sup>G3588</sup> in<sup>G1722</sup> Thessalonica,<sup>G2332</sup> in that they<sup>G3748</sup> received<sup>G1209</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> word<sup>G3056</sup> with<sup>G3326</sup> all<sup>G3956</sup> readiness of mind,<sup>G4288</sup> and **searched**<sup>G350</sup> the<sup>G3588</sup> scriptures<sup>G1124</sup> daily,<sup>G2596</sup> <sup>G2250</sup> whether<sup>G1487</sup> those things<sup>G5023</sup> were<sup>G2192</sup> so.<sup>G3779</sup>
- G350 — Strong
- ἀνα νω
- Anakrinō
- an-ak-ree'-no
- From G303 and G2919; **properly to scrutinize, that is, (by implication) investigate, interrogate, determine: - ask, question, discern, examine, judge, search.**

# CSI for Biblical Investigation ...

## In search of truth



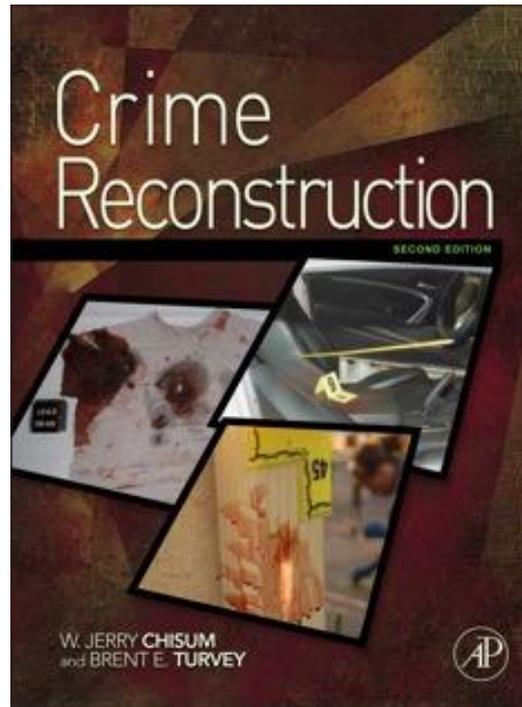
Observations



Interpretation



Application



## Observations

Gather data & facts

## Interpretations

Reconstruct the original event/meanings

## Application

Take appropriate actions

# Understanding the Word of God.

- Observation - Gather the data & facts.
- Interpretation - Extract the objective original meaning.
- Application - Apply to our lives.

# Exegesis vs Eisegesis

## Exegesis

- Interpreting a text to understand its intended meaning within its original context.

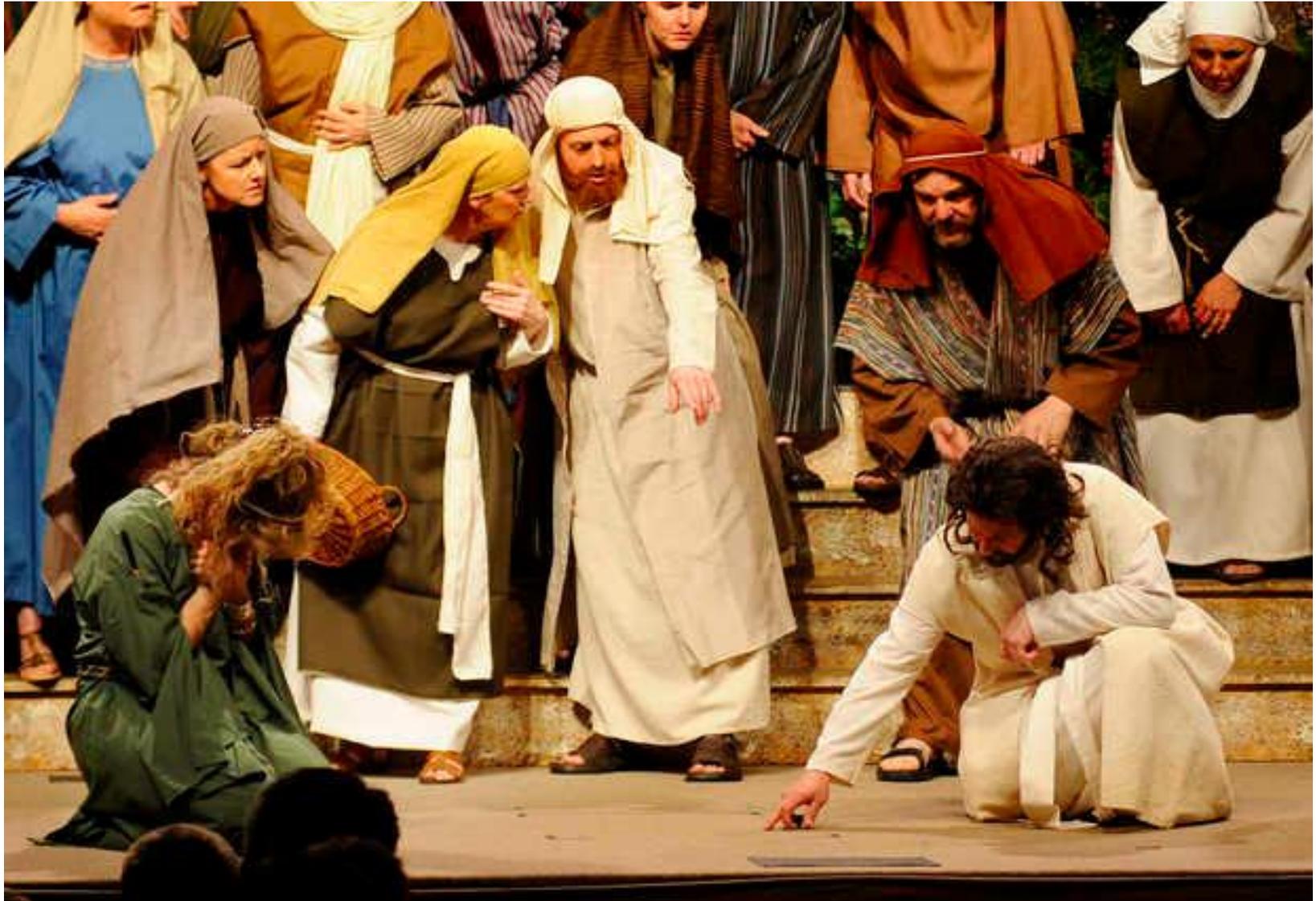


## Eisegesis

- interpreting a text or portion of text in such a way that it introduces one's own presuppositions, agendas, or biases into and onto the text.



# Context – Jesus with adulterous woman



# Context: Reconstruct the scene

Jesus teaching in the temple – not exactly a friendly crowd.

Jesus also said: I am the light of the world



# Discussion Questions

1. What is your main motivation to know the Bible?

2. Practice Bible Study – Read John Chapter 8

**Observations** – study the context of John 8:31-32 - What? Where? When? Who? How?

**Interpretation** - Some questions here to stimulate you thinking – ask your own questions.

- In Jesus' mind, what is the difference between “believers” and “true disciples”?
- How would knowing the truth set the disciples free?
- How does one “continue in the word”?
- What does it mean to be truly free?
- What Jesus meant by truth?

**Application**

How can I practically apply the truths I learnt from this passage?

# Leaders

- Lead discussion.
- Gather insights from your group.
- Share key discoveries and key insights from group.
- Any unanswered questions to discuss?
- Applications to share ?

# Sharing insights and interpretations

What did Jesus say? Where? to whom? why?

What did Jesus mean when he said that?

How is this relevant to me?

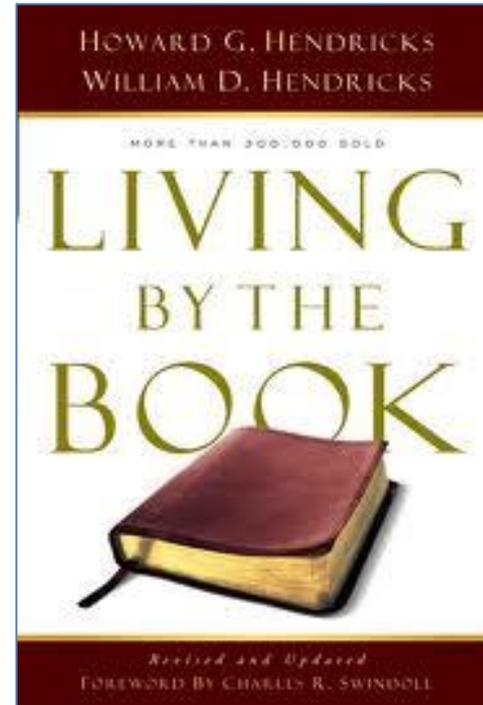
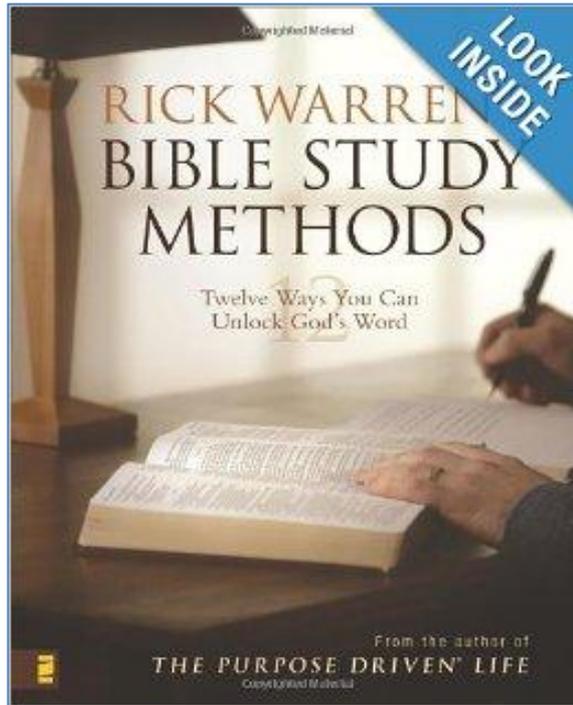
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# Handle with care

- Study with diligence
  - Observe
  - Interpret
  - Apply
- Handle with care
  - Be faithful to the original meaning.
  - Extract the objective meaning from the text, not force fit our own presumptions & biases into the text.
- Be humble:
  - be opened to the possibility that your interpretation may be wrong or inaccurate.
  - Study what other scholars have said.
  - There will be mysteries that you cannot understand.

# Good resources for Bible Study



<http://www.e-sword.net/>



# References & Resources

- Living By the Book: The Art and Science of Reading the Bible by Howard G. Hendricks, William Hendricks, Charles R. Swindoll (Foreword by), William D. Hendricks
- Rick Warren's Bible Study Methods : Twelve Ways you can Unlock God's Words.
- [WWW.e-sword.net](http://WWW.e-sword.net)