How Do We Study The Bible? (Part IV)

Intro:
- brief series on Bible study

- last lesson: Bible principles of interpretation
  - ended, noticing that Jesus didn’t recognize the need to adopt a hermeneutic, but to establish authority

- this lesson: brief overview of authority – perhaps most important lesson regarding Bible interpretation
  - note: had an in depth series in 2006
  - note: cover a lot of material, not much time for examples and illus., keep yourself engaged
    - Bible class book on my site, audio lessons on both my site and church site

We live under the law of Christ
- Heb. 7:12 God changed the law, necessary so Jesus could be our high priest (tribe of Judah)

- Gal. 6:2 we must fulfill the law of Christ – Matt. 28:18-19; Heb. 5:9; Col. 3:17

  - the law of Christ is composed of Christ’s teachings
    - Ja. 1:25; 2:12 we’ll be judged by the law of liberty
      - 2 Cor. 5:10; Jn. 12:48 we’ll be judged by Jesus, His word
      - therefore, the law by which we must live is composed within Jesus’ teaching – law of Christ / liberty
    - 2 Tim. 3:16-17 Scripture profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work
      - must contain law of Christ, which we must fulfill to be saved

We must obey God’s commands
- Heb. 1:1-2 God has spoken through Jesus
  - God commands us to hear Jesus – rf - baptism, transfiguration

- Heb. 5:9 we must obey Jesus to be saved – Matt. 28:18-19; Col. 3:17

- 1 Cor. 14:37 the Lord’s commands written in NT
  
  - two types of commands: specific and general
    - illus.: Noah, “build” is general but “gopher wood” is specific – explain
    - illus.: Mk. 16:16 “go” is general / 1 Cor. 16:1 “first day of the week” is specific – explain
    - illus.: parents says “go” to the store vs. “walk” to the store – explain
Expediencies required to fulfill general commands

- expedient: something that’s helpful – word appears a few times in the Bible

- illus.: from above – show expedient required to fulfill general command – build, go
  - when God is specific, must obey that which is specified – “gopher wood” “first day of week”
  - when God isn’t specific, must use expedient to help – “go” may walked or rode or sailed
  - note: can only use an expedient when we have a general command

- criteria of expedients we can use
  - 1 Cor. 6:12 (context: expediency to eat meat)
    - lawful
      - has to be fulfilling a general command from God
      - has to be lawful in and of itself – illus.: can’t steal
    - profitable (KJV: “expedient” - NKJ: “helpful”)
    - not master (not have power over us)
      - not addicted to it – illus.: coffee
  - 1 Cor. 10:23-24 (context: eating meat offered to idols)
    - lawful, profitable (as above)
    - edify
      - an expedient we choose to use must build people up, not tear down
      - illus.: should eat meat if would cause a brother to lose soul, otherwise ok
    - good for neighbor as well as self
      - edify all parties concerned

- some people try to justify sin by saying it’s expedient
  - illus.: instrumental music, expedient because makes singing better
    - no: we do not have a general command authorizing instrumental music
    - no: it transgresses a specific command to sing, specifically accompanied by the heart
  - illus.: kitchen and fellowship hall in the church building is expedient
    - no: we do not have a general command authorizing a kitchen
    - no: transgresses God’s instructions for social fellowship and eating of meals to be conducted on personal basis (Acts 2:46; 1 Cor. 11:22)

- we live under the law of liberty that gives us much freedom, but we have a responsibility to use expediences exactly as God instructs
Apostolic example is authoritative

- 2 Tim. 1:13 the NT establishes a standard (pattern, form, example we follow)
  - illus.: dress maker has a pattern, cut out the material and sew according to pattern, result is a dress

- 2 Th. 2:15 commanded to keep apostolic traditions

- 2 Th. 2:15 commanded to imitate the apostles, follow their example – 1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1

- Which apostolic examples are not binding on us today? – all God’s word excludes
  - examples in keeping the Mosaic Law excluded
    - Heb. 7:12 God changed the law, we live under the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2)
    - Gal. 5:3-4 Christian who keeps the law to be saved has fallen from grace, severed from Christ
  - examples of keeping cultural traditions
    - 1 Cor. 9:20-21 Paul kept traditions of the Mosaic Law when it was expedient, and Gentile traditions when they were expedient, but always was loyal to the law of Christ
    - 1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23-24 any lawful cultural tradition can be observed by Christians as long as it’s expedient
  - examples applying to expediency apostles employed
    - expediencies, of necessity, differ depending on circumstances
    - illus.: we can fly in airplanes today, they couldn’t in the first century

God requires us to make lawful inferences (conclusions)

- definitions:
  - “infer” verb, to make a conclusion by the deduction of facts
  - “inference” noun, the result of inferring (the result of making a conclusion by the deduction of facts)

- inferences help us understand the historical narrative
  - use inferences to establish the author of some books
  - use inferences to establish estimated dates (illus.: date book written)
  - use inferences to fill in gaps of the historical narrative

- three inferences man must make today from God’s word
  - we must exercise due diligence and take personal responsibility in carrying out God’s will
    - 2 Pet. 1:5. 10 diligence commanded
      - illus.: Noah had to be diligent to build the ark, and take person responsibility to carry out command
      - illus.: Abraham had to be diligent and take personal responsibility to offer his son, left early the next morning
      - illus.: Peter had to be diligent and take personal responsibility to go and preach to Cornelius
        - contrast Jonah when sent to Ninevah
  - when we’re instructed to do something on a particular day, we must do it every time that day comes about
    - illus.: OT feasts and Sabbaths, God told them when to observe them, not tell them to do every time, yet held them accountable for properly inferring that “every time” was required
    - Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2 told when to observe the Lord’s Supper and take up collection, God requires us to lawfully infer that “every time” in meant


God’s silence is not authoritative
- God is silent when He not given us any instructions (command, binding apostolic example)
  - God’s silence is not authoritative
    - illus.: child goes to a friend’s house after school, few hours later parent shows up at friends house, says “Why are you here; I didn’t say you could come here after school!”, child replies, “You didn’t tell me not to!”
      - everyone knows the parents silence didn’t authorize the act
    - illus.: how big would the Bible be if had all the “do nots” – 1st century Christians reading about the Internet
      - 1 Pet. 4:11 speak as the oracles of God – say and do only what God has authorized
      - Col. 3:17 do all in the name of the Lord Jesus – only do what He’s authorized
      - 1 Cor. 4:6 not to think beyond what is written – only do what God authorizes, word
      - 2 Jn. 1:9 abide in the teaching of Christ, if not, go too far, not have God
      - Rev. 22:18-19 not add or take from God’s word
      - Heb. 7:11-14 illus.: Moses spoke nothing – therefore not authorized
  - whenever God’s silence is not respected, the transgressors are punished
    - Num. 20:7-12 God told Moses to strike the rock to get water, but he spoke to it as before
      - Moses punished, not allowed to enter promise land, because not believe and not honor God
    - 1 Ch. 13:9-10 Uzzah touch the ark of the covenant to keep it from falling off the cart
      - Uzzah punished, God struck him dead, not permitted to touch the ark under any circumstances

God desires mercy and not sacrifice
- God desires mercy and not sacrifice
  - Matt. 9:9-13 Jesus eating at Matthew’s house, accused by Jews of being a sinner since He was eating with sinners, Jesus corrected them, telling them to go and learn what Hos. 6:6 means, I desire mercy and not sacrifice
  - Matt. 12:1-8 apostles accused of sin for plucking grain and eating it on the Sabbath, Jesus again corrected them using Hos. 6:6 and two examples: David and his men eating the show bread, the priest on the Sabbath offer sacrifice – all of these were innocent

- application for today
  - “sacrifice”
    - OT: “sacrifice” represented the ceremonial part of the Mosaic Law that aided the people in their spiritual and moral service to God
    - today: represents the things we employ to aid us in service to God
  - “mercy”
    - outward manifestation of pity
    - mercy demands that the aids we employ in service to God be used to meet emergency need of people that can’t be met in another authorized way
    - illus.: auto accident outside the church building during a storm – lawful
      - can use telephone to call 911, use church building for triage and to give aid, use first-aid kit to administer medical care – authorized in emergency as this, but not under normal circumstances
    - illus: auto accident outside the church building during a storm – unlawful
      - person going to die any moment and wants a priest to come in and conduct a worship service, giving him the
Summary / Inv.

- summary:
  - we live under the law of Christ
  - we must obey God’s commands
  - general commands require us to use lawful expediencies to fulfill them
  - apostolic examples authoritative
  - God requires us to make lawful inferences (conclusions)
  - God’s silence is not authoritative
  - God desires mercy and not sacrifice

- inv.: are you obeying God today