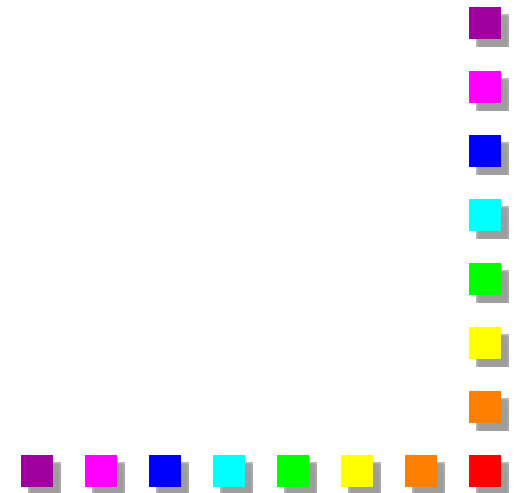


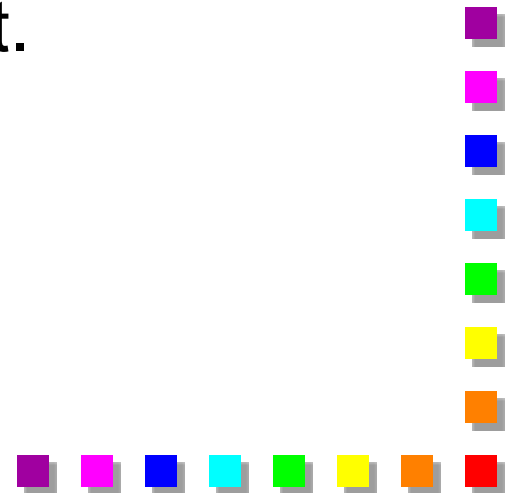
Can We Understand the Bible Alike?

2 Timothy 4:1-5



A Strange Question

- “Can we understand the Bible alike?”
- What we will study this week:
 - The importance of Bible study
 - Important “rules” of Bible study.
 - How to form a Bible study habit.
 - The benefits of Bible study.



The Importance of Bible Study

- Bible knowledge provides an assurance of our salvation. - 1 John 5:13
- Bible knowledge enables us to teach others. - 1 Peter 3:15
- Bible studies, and knowledge may be shared with those we love. - Deuteronomy 4:9,10



A Piece of Plastic Clay

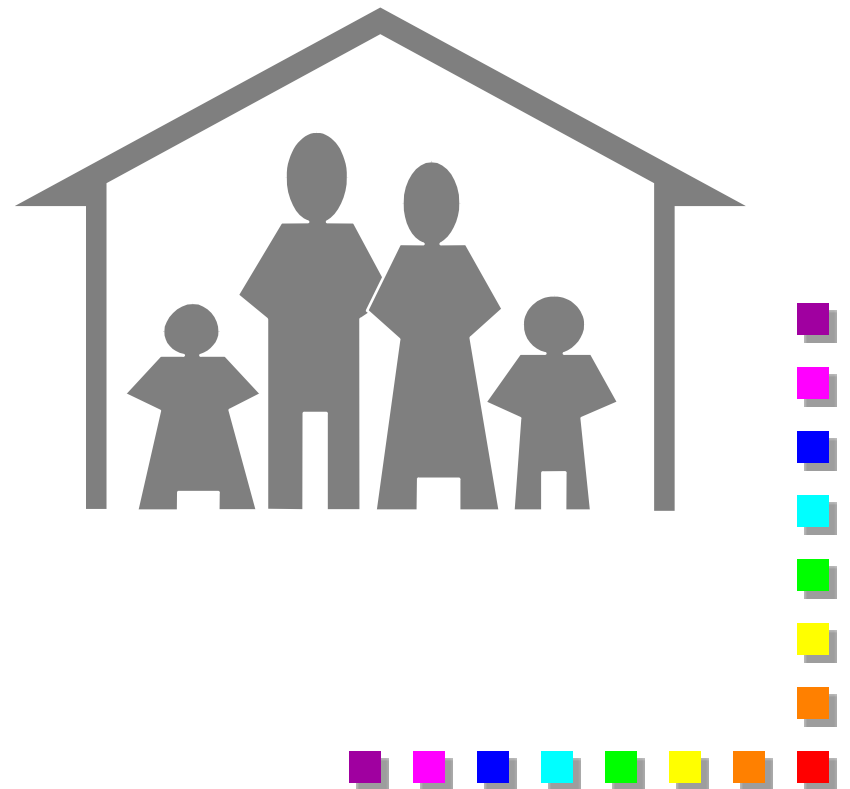
"I took a piece of plastic clay,
"and gently fashioned it one day,
"And as my fingers pressed it still,
"it bent and yielded to my will.

"I came again when days were past,
"the bit of clay was hard at last,
"The form I gave it, still it bore,
"and I could change it nevermore.

"I took a piece of living clay,
"and gently formed it day by day,
"And fashioned with my power and art,
"a young child's soft and yielding heart.

"I came again when days we gone,
"it was a man I looked upon,
"He still that early impress wore,
"and I could change it never more."

~ Anonymous ~



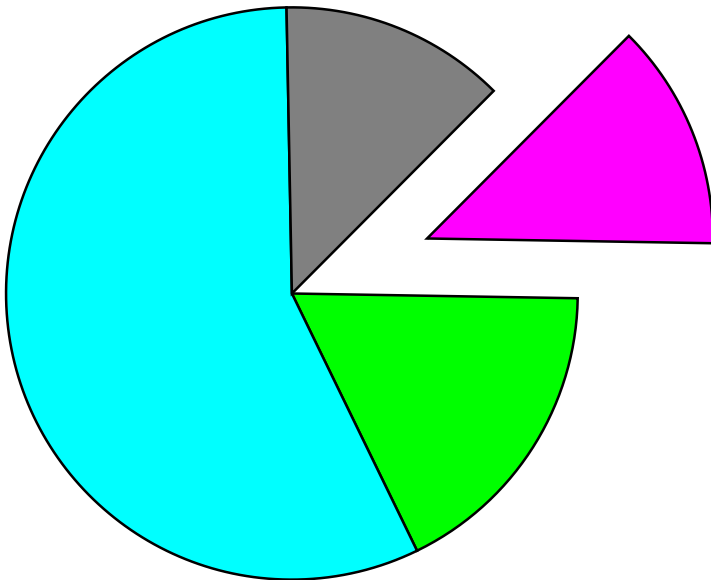
“Rules” for Bible Study

- The Bible is God’s word; we must study it reverently.
- We must respect the context of the passage we are studying.
- We must study the the passage logically.
- We must study the Bible diligently.
- We must apply our Bible knowledge.



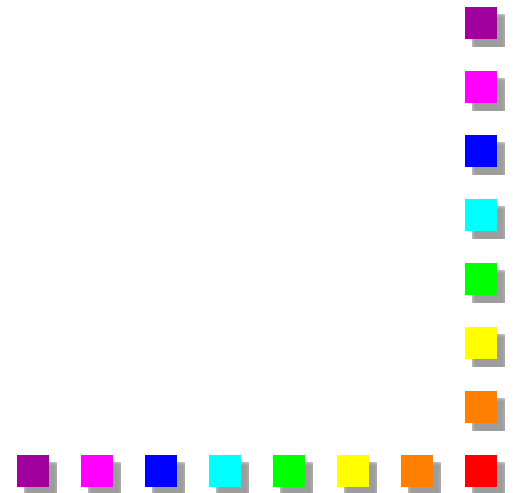
Observing the Context

- Textual Context
- Dispensational Context
- Historical Context
- Cultural Context
- Local Context



Important Questions to Ask

- What is the purpose of the passage?
- Who is speaking in the passage?
 - God - John 3:16
 - Man - Ezekiel 18:1,2
 - Inspired by God?
 - Uninspired conversation? (Job)
 - Question or Statement?
 - Satan - Genesis 3:4



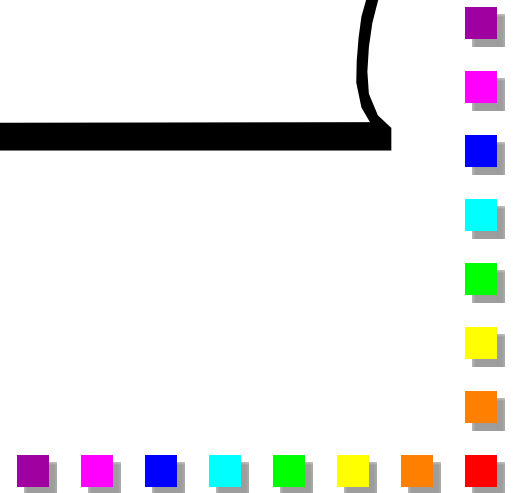
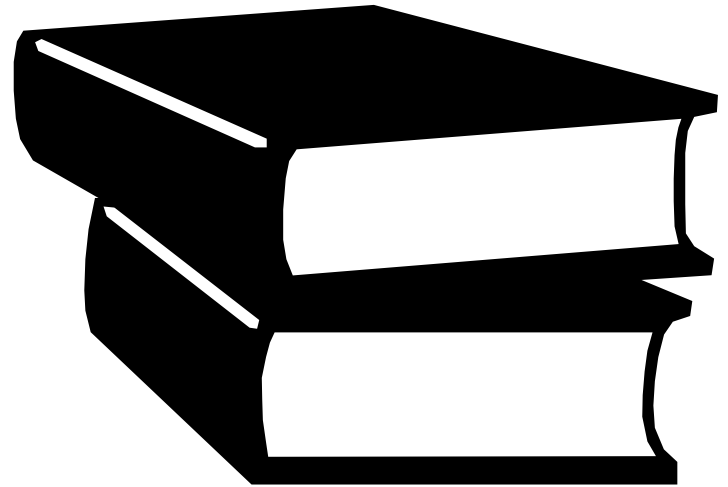
Important Questions to Ask

- What kind of language is being used?
 - Literal - Acts 2:38
 - Figurative - Matthew 15:13
 - Symbolic - Revelation 1:20
- To whom is the speaker talking?
 - General - John 14:6
 - Specific - Colossians 3:19,10



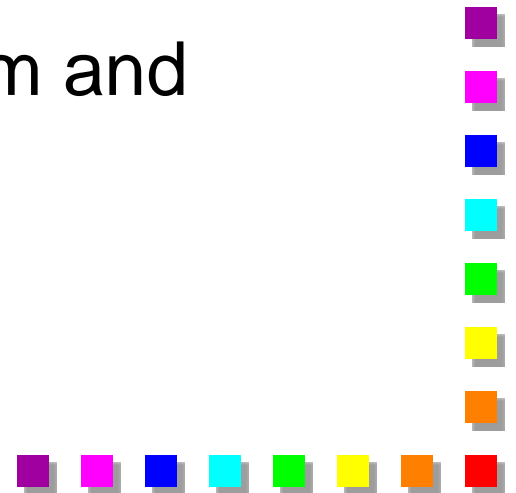
Tools of the Trade

- A good study Bible and other translations.
- A harmony of the Gospels.
- A Concordance
- A Bible dictionary, and lexicon.
- A Bible Atlas.
- Bible handbooks, on history and customs.
- Commentaries



The 'Law' of Use

- Matthew 25:14-30 - Parable of the Talents
- We must **use** the blessings we receive from the Lord.
- If we squander or neglect them, they will be wasted.
- If we **use** them, we will refine them and increase their **usefulness**.
- “Use it or **lose** it!”



The Benefits of Bible Study

- Man cannot live by bread alone.
- Bible study encourages us.
- Bible study strengthens us.
- Bible study provides guidance for us.
- Bible study will help you to please the Lord.



Resolve to Begin, Today!

- The Bible can be understood!
- The Bible is another one of God's precious gifts.
- "There is no 'tomorrow!'"
- Today, is the day to begin!

