

Colossians

Take Root...Bear Fruit

Week Eight

Here we go again!

My Dad had an expression that I like to quote. When my mom was telling a story figuratively circling the subject...getting caught up in the details of who said what, and what happened next, and why, and all the implications of that... He would say, "Land the plane, JoAnn!" He meant, "OK, that's enough detail. Just give me the bottom line."

*There comes a point in Bible Study that we have to "land the plane." We've closely observed a passage in detail and tried to explain what the details mean. Then, we need to step back from all those details and get to the bottom line, sum it all up. For some of us this is a challenge. We like details. We specialize in details. We're good at details. But there is value in seeing what all those details add up to. That's the final step in the Interpret Stage of Inductive Bible Study. We're calling it "**Bottom Line the Passage**." As briefly as we can manage, we explain what the focus passage is all about. We're not going for a general, sweeping message here...just what the author's words communicated to his original readers. Here are a couple of examples:*

- *John 4:1-42* *Jesus has a life-changing conversation with a Samaritan woman.*
- *Philippians 2:1-5* *Paul urges the group unity that comes from individual humility.*

It's not too hard once you get the hang of it. But it may take a little practice. This week you might like to get some extra practice by going back over past weeks focus passages and trying your hand at looking for "Bottom Line" for them.

Coming in for landing,

Cindy and Friends

Week Eight Homework

Observe (What Do I SEE?)

Pray...Read...Mark up the passage...List 1-2 observations per verse.

Colossians 3:18-4:1 (NIV)

Observations

¹⁸Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

¹⁹Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

²⁰Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

²¹Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

²²Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a

reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ²⁵Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.

Colossians 4

¹Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

“Lump and Label” ...Go back over the passage and look for 2-4 “lumps” of content that together express one idea. Give each “lump” a “label.” Try to make your labels as brief as possible.

<i>Lump (verses)</i>	<i>Label</i>

List any questions you have about this passage.

Interpret (What Does it MEAN?)

Use your Interpretation Tools to gain insight...we have introduced several tools (listed below) to help us answer the "What does it mean?" questions. Use any that would be helpful to you.

- Context
- Dictionary
- Alternate translations
- Cross references

Record what you find.

Bottom Line the Passage...in one sentence, answer the question, "What was that about?" Stick to what the passage meant to the writer and his original readers. Don't generalize the message at this time.

Apply (How Does it WORK?)

Make it practical. Now that you have spent some time looking in detail at God's Word, don't stop! Ask yourself, "How does this work...in general...and for ME?" You may find it helpful to look for...

S—a SIN to avoid

P—a PROMISE to claim

E—an EXAMPLE to follow

C—a COMMAND to obey

K—KNOWLEDGE of God to believe

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the lower half of the page. It is intended for the student to write their application of the text, identifying specific sins, promises, examples, commands, or knowledge of God.