

## **Four Basic Principles for Bible Study**

### **Step One:**

#### **Observation: What exactly does the passage say?**

Careful (*exact details, thorough, precise*)

Systematic (*orderly such as: tree, limb, branch, twig, leaves*)

Persistent (*extended time, determined continuing*)

### **Step Two:**

#### **Interpretation: What does the passage literally mean?**

The language gap (*original languages*)

The cultural gap (*each part of the Bible in its own time/era*)

The geographical gap (*Bible event locations*)

The historical gap (*historical background*)

### **Step Three:**

#### **Application: How does this truth relate to me?**

Are there *examples* to follow?

Are there *commands* to obey?

Are there *errors* to avoid?

Are there *sins* to forsake?

Are there *promises* to claim?

Are there *new thoughts* about God?

Are there *principles* to live by?

### **Step Four:**

#### **Meditation: Focusing the mind on one subject**

Involving Reason (*cause, motive, aim, purpose, think logically*)

Imagination (*mind's eye, head, thoughts*)

And Emotions

Excerpts taken from “Rediscovering Expository Preaching”  
by Dr. John F. MacArthur