

HERMENEUTICS



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- **2 Errors in applying the Bible**
 - Too little attention – Reducing Bible study to an academic exercise
 - Too much attention - Application without interpretation leads to applying the Bible improperly
- **Guidelines**
 - Build Application on Interpretation – directly on the meaning and relevance to original audience and what was expected of them.
 - Base Application on what original and present audiences have in common.
 - Recognize how God works in different ages and determine what is normative for today
 - See the principle inherent in the text and extrapolate to get to application
 - Write out specific action responses
 - Rely on the Holy Spirit

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- **Getting the point – (Application) Trace the argument**
 - Determine how it affects me and what must I do about it?
 - How do I respond to what this passage is saying?
 - Does it challenge how I see the world?
 - Is there a central truth that I need to put into practice?
 - What are the implications of the passage for the community of which I am a part?
 - I pray that God will help me believe and obey.

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- **Example**

- I have made, and can make, no contribution toward my personal salvation. All I can do is to take the great gift of grace that God offers in His Son.
- Any attempt at self-justification or claims of self-righteousness is a contradiction of the truth of this passage. My complete dependence should therefore be on Jesus Christ
- I must allow God to go on working in me as “His workmanship”
- I must seek to discover and walk in the specific plan of God for my life.

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I. Create and Outline

- a. Follow the logical progress of thought
- b. Try to observe breaks in the thought
- c. Put a caption or headline on each division

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- **Example**

- A Settled state– 2:8a
 - An accomplished fact
 - A present experience
- A sovereign source – 2:8b-9
 - Completely from God
 - Not from human origin or works
- A calculated condition– 2:10a
 - God’s Masterpiece (work of art)
 - A new creation with a new purpose
- A prearranged purpose – 2:10b
 - Arranged by God
 - Performed by us

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- **Your own Paraphrased version**
 - How would you say it?
 - How do you hear it?

“I have been placed in the position of having been saved, by another (God). I played no part in this other than to surrender to God by placing my trust in Him to accomplish this act. This salvation was offered freely by God with no expectation of payment or recompense, since I have none to offer. Through this process God has made me a new creature. He has made me and is making me into something that I was not beforehand. He did this that by my obedience to his commands he may be glorified since he had planned this for me before time began.”

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- **Don't lose sight of the point**
 - Knowing the one upon whom it focuses...The Lord Jesus Christ
 - If we miss him then it is only a pointless exegetical exercise

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