



APPLICATION

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

PETER KREEFT

Professor of Philosophy at Boston College &
The King's College

“Reading the Bible should be a form of prayer. The Bible should be read in God’s presence and as the unfolding of His mind. It is not just a book, but God’s love letter to you. It is God’s revelation, God’s mind, operating through your mind and your reading, so your reading is your response to His mind and will.



1937-PRESENT

PETER KREEFT

Professor of Philosophy at Boston College &
The King's College

“Reading it is aligning your mind and will with God’s; therefore it is a fulfillment of the prayer ‘Thy will be done’, which is the most basic and essential key to achieving our whole purpose on earth: holiness and happiness.... Both prayer and Bible reading are ways of listening to God. They should blend: our prayer should be biblical and our Bible reading prayerful.”



1937-PRESENT

MARTIN LUTHER

German Monk, Theologian, & Protestant Reformer

“Experience is necessary for the understanding of the Word. It is not merely to be repeated or known, but to be lived and felt.”

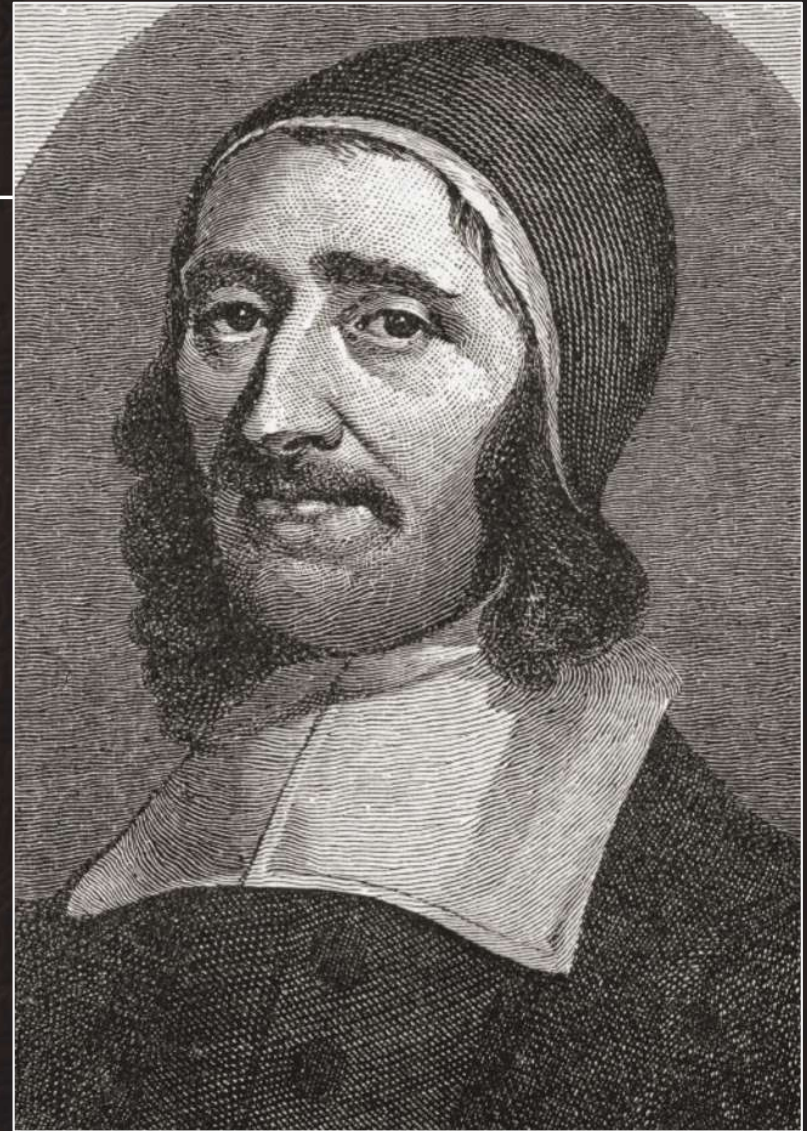


1483-1546

RICHARD BAXTER

English Puritan Theologian & Churchman

“Read [the Bible] not as a common book, with a common and irreverent heart, but in the dread and love of God the author.... Read it, therefore, with love and great delight”

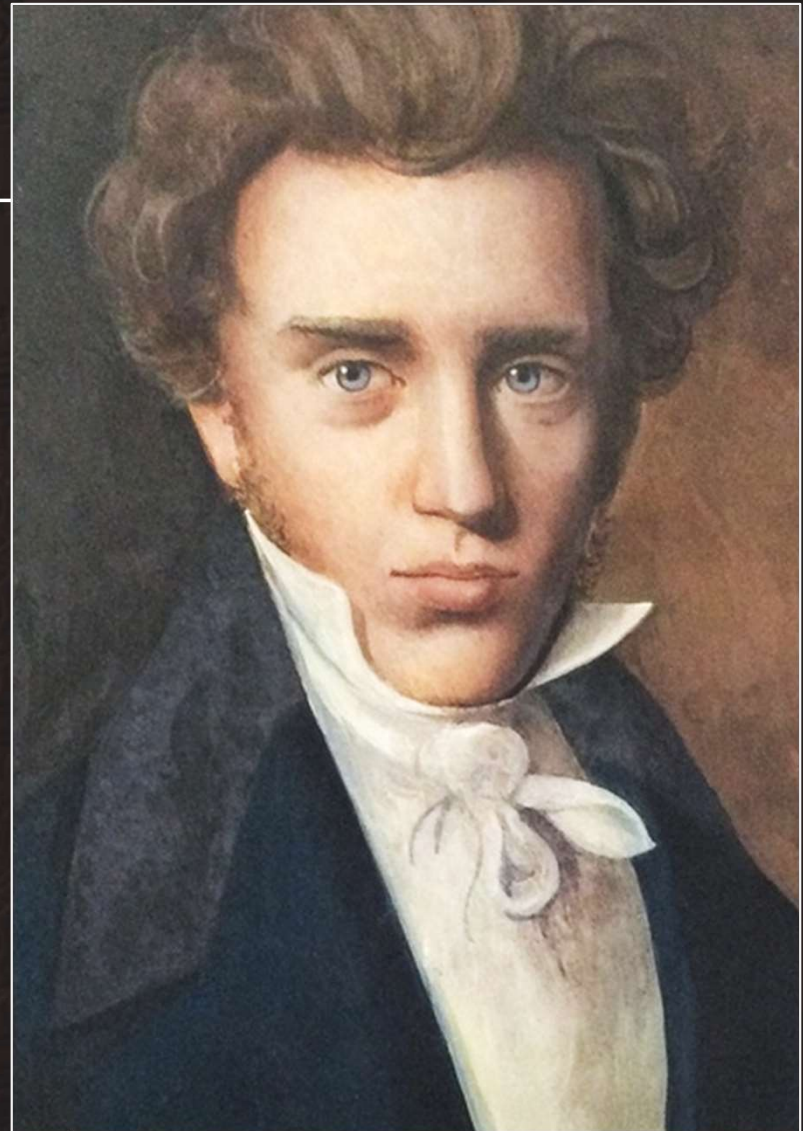


1615-1691

SOREN KIERKEGAARD

Danish Philosopher & Theologian

“To read the Bible as God’s word one must read it with his heart in his mouth, on tip-toe, with eager expectancy, in conversation with God...”

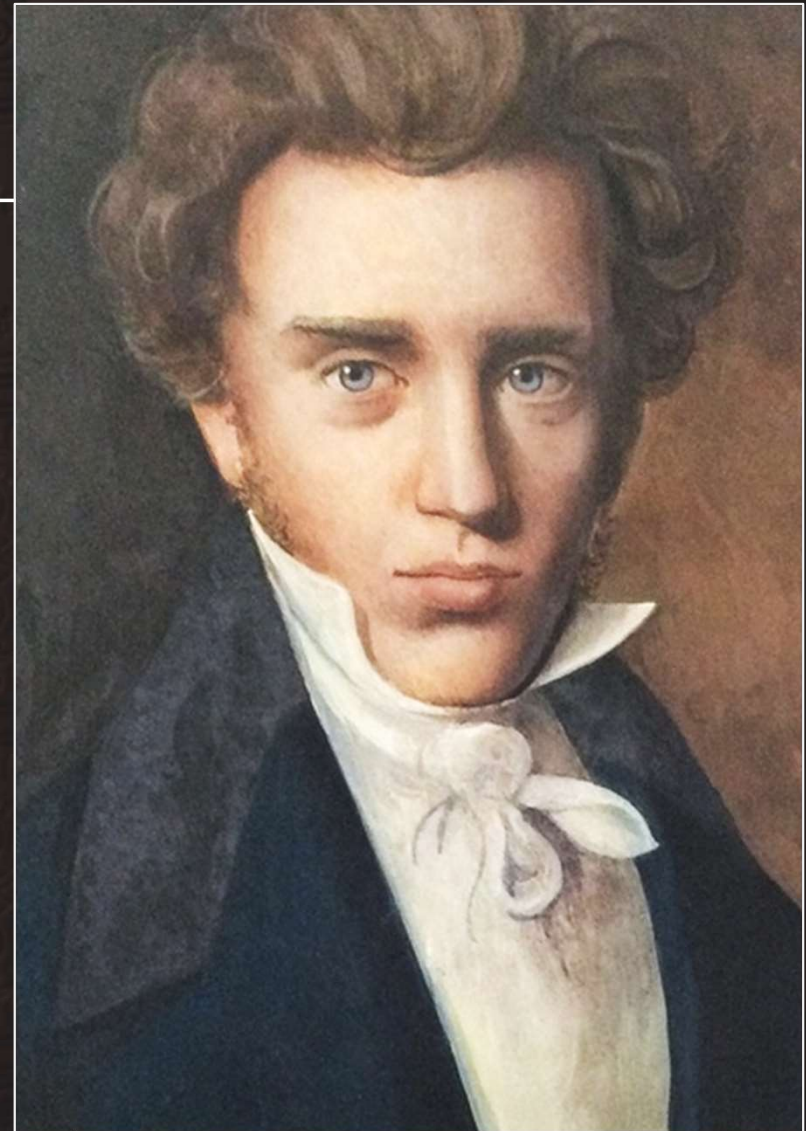


1813-1855

SOREN KIERKEGAARD

Danish Philosopher & Theologian

“To read the Bible thoughtlessly or carelessly or academically or professionally is not to read the Bible as God’s Word. As one reads it as a love letter is read, then one reads it as the Word of God’.”



1813-1855

BIBLE STUDY PROCESS



PRECURSOR



PRECURSOR



OBSERVATION

READING WELL
OBSERVING
DETAILS

INTERPRETATION

CONSIDERING
CONTEXT
UNLOCKING
MEANING

APPLICATION

BRINGING THE
OBSERVED
INTERPRETED
MEANING INTO
OUR WORLD

I have **stored up** your word in my heart,
that I **might not sin against you....**

I will **delight** in your statutes;

I will **not forget** your word.

– **PSALM 119:11 & 16** –

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, and for **training in righteousness**, that the man of God may be **complete, equipped** for every good work.

– 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 –



PITFALLS IN APPLICATION

TAKE THIS TO THE BANK

**The greatest place
for heresy is with
the application
of the Word of God.**

PITFALLS IN APPLICATION

A MUSEUM ARTIFACT PITFALL

B WHAT-ABOUT-ME PITFALL

C MYSTICAL CODEBOOK PITFALL

D BIBLE BUFFET PITFALL

E ATTACK OF THE CLONES PITFALL

BIG QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

**How do you come to
determine what to believe
& apply from the Bible?**

Do you guess? Do you wing-it?

Do you do what “feels right”?

Do you have a method or is it just preference?



STEPS FOR FAITHFUL APPLICATION

The background is a composite image. On the left, a hand holds a pen over an open book on a wooden surface. On the right, there is a dark, stylized illustration of a group of people, possibly a church scene, with a central figure resembling Jesus. A large teal circle is overlaid on the left side, containing the number 1.

1

**CONSIDER
THE SIMILARITIES
& DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN BIBLE
WORLD & OURS**

FUNDAMENTAL POINT

**Each passage [of the Bible]
was God's Word to other
people before it became
God's Word to us**

GOD

TIMELESS TRUTH



BIBLE WORLD

CULTURE
LANGUAGE
TIME
SITUATION



OUR WORLD

GOD

TIMELESS TRUTH

SAME GOD - SAME HUMAN NATURE - SAME WORLD

PRINCIPALIZING
BRIDGE

BIBLE WORLD

CULTURE
LANGUAGE
TIME
SITUATION

OUR WORLD

FUNDAMENTAL POINT

THE BIBLE IS TIMELESS TRUTH

GIVEN IN A TIMELY MANNER



2

**CONSIDER
HOW TRUTH
IS BEING
COMMUNICATED**

TIMELESS TRUTH



NARRATIVE



POETRY



DISCOURSE

EXPERIENCING TRUTH

SHOWING TRUTH

EXPLAINING TRUTH



MODERN READER

IMPORTANT POINT

**Meaning is communicated
through form**



3

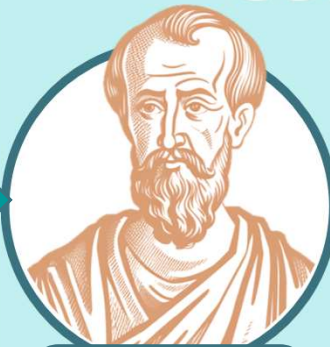


**CONSIDER THE
FUNDAMENTAL
TRUTH BEING
COMMUNICATED**

TIMELESS SHARED TRUTH

GOD

THROUGH



**BIBLE
AUTHOR**

TO



**ORIGINAL
AUDIENCE**

FOR



**FUTURE
AUDIENCE**

**BIBLICAL WORLD
CONTEXT**

**YOUR
CONTEXT**

FUNDAMENTAL POINT

The task of the interpreter is to
set the teaching free from its
cultural bondage **to determine**
a universal truth or principle

SOME WILL ARGUE

We don't need all this! **If the Bible says it that settles it!** Just read the Book and do what it says!



PLEASE EXPLAIN

TATTOOS (LEVITICUS 19), **HOLY KISS** (1 COR 13), & **HEAD COVERINGS** (1 COR 11)

FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION

What is your *hermeneutical process* for deciding how to address application questions?

THE BAR OF APPLICATION



**NO RELEVANCE
APPROACH**

**ONE-TO-ONE
APPROACH**

R.C. SPROUL

Theologian, Minister, & Founder of Ligonier Ministries

“Unless we conclude that all of Scripture is principle and thus binding on all people of all ages, or that all Scripture is local custom with no relevance beyond its immediate historical context, we are forced to establish some categories and guidelines for discerning the difference.”

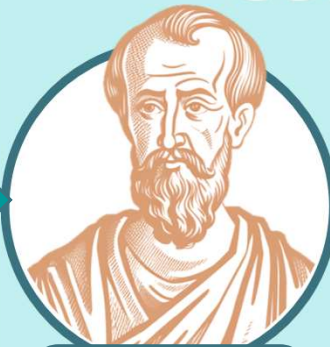


1939-2017

TIMELESS SHARED TRUTH

GOD

THROUGH



**BIBLE
AUTHOR**

TO



**ORIGINAL
AUDIENCE**

FOR

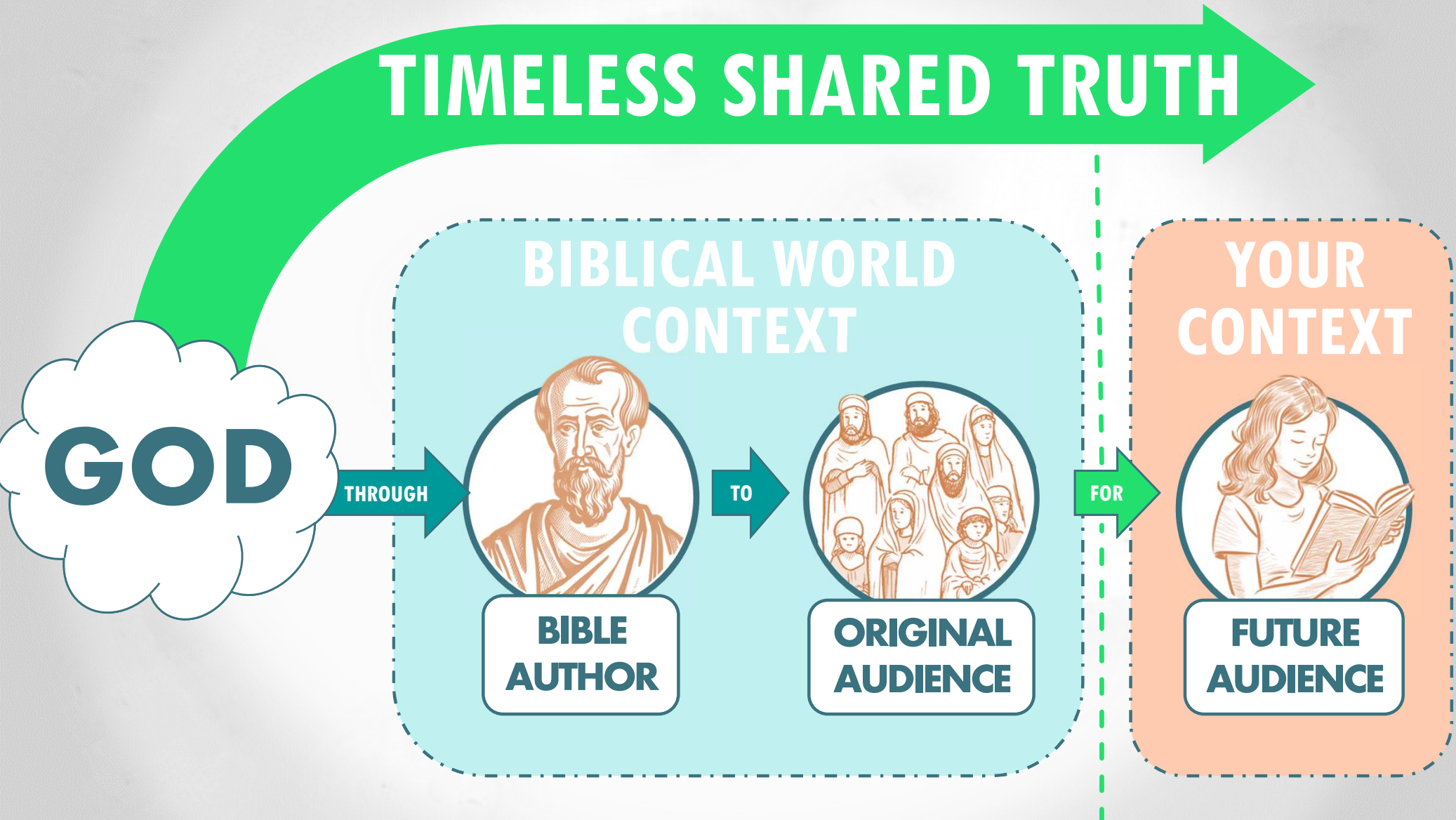


**FUTURE
AUDIENCE**

**YOUR
CONTEXT**

**BIBLICAL WORLD
CONTEXT**

TIMELESS SHARED TRUTH



THE GOAL IS TO UNCOVER THE TIMELESS TRUTH/PRINCIPLE
IN THE TEXT SO WE CAN SEE HOW THE TEXT IS **FOR US!**

“[The] only proper control for **hermeneutics** is to be found in the **original intent** of the biblical text...[otherwise] biblical texts can be made to mean whatever they might mean to any given reader....”

- **Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart**

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, pg. 33-34

ROBERTSON MCQUILKIN

Missionary Statesman & Bible Scholar

“The task of the interpreter is to discern the cultural universal in the biblical data and reproduce, in contemporary society, the impact God intended...[it] is to set the teaching free from its cultural bondage to determine a universal truth or principle.”



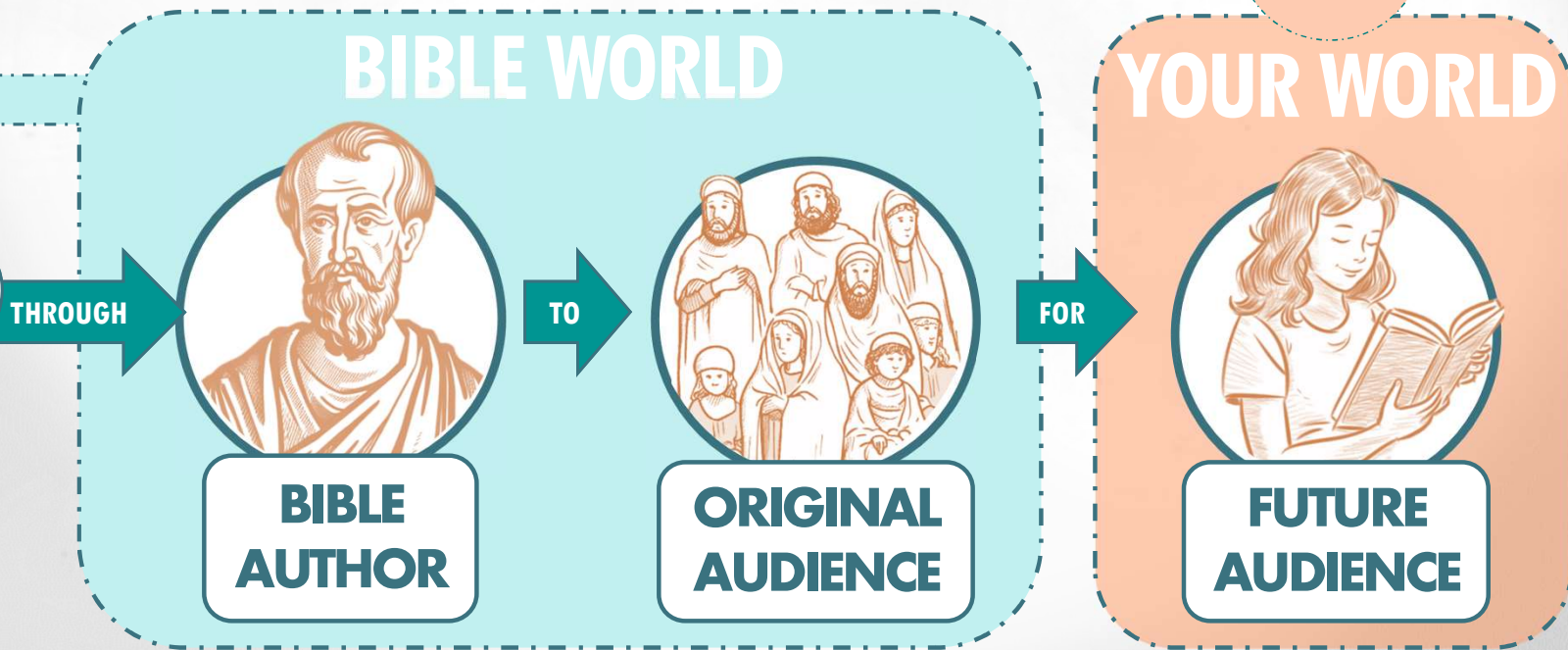
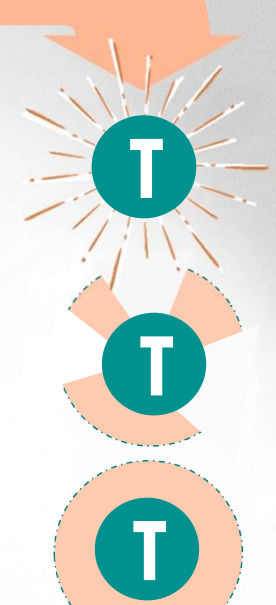
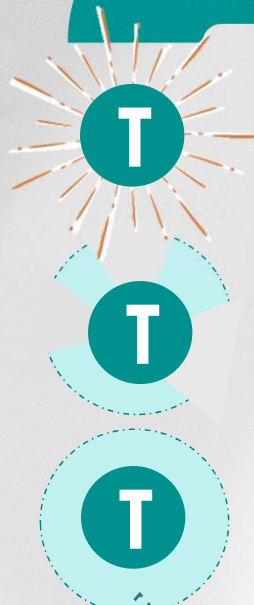
1927-2016

**HOW DO WE SET THE
TEACHING FREE TO
DETERMINE THE
UNIVERSAL TRUTH?**

**BY FAITHFULLY,
OBJECTIVELY, & HUMBLLY
ASKING QUESTIONS
OF THE TEXT THAT HELP
UNCOVER THE UNIVERSAL
TRUTH (PRINCIPLE)**

TIMELESS SHARED TRUTH

THE GOAL IS TO SHUCK THE
TIMELESS TRUTH FROM THE
BIBLICAL CONTEXT & APPLY
THAT TRUTH TO OUR CONTEXT!
THIS HAPPENS BY ASKING QUESTIONS!





4

**CONSIDER
HOW THAT
FUNDAMENTAL
TRUTH FITS
WITHIN THE
WHOLE BIBLE**



5

**CONSIDER
HOW THAT
FUNDAMENTAL
TRUTH IS TO BE
LIVED OUT IN
YOUR WORLD**



6

**CONSIDER
CHRISTIAN
CHARITY &
HUMILITY
THROUGHOUT**

WALT RUSSELL

Professor of Philosophy at Boston College &
The King's College

“We should...[read] to understand the intention of the biblical author within the biblical book we are reading [as] a means to the end of being spiritually formed according to the meaning of the biblical passage. There can be no true spiritual transformation apart from the true meaning of the biblical text.”



1948-2022