



GRIP

STRENGTHEN YOUR HOLD ON THE WORD OF GOD

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Flow master

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One of the keys to Bible interpretation is understanding the flow of thought. A verse only has meaning within the context of the passage.

Prayer example

Matthew 18:20 20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

What does this mean?

1. What is a Church? Two or three gathered in Christ’s name
2. Don’t be discouraged if only a few show up to your meeting – even if there are just two or three, Christ is with you.
3. Prayer has more power when there are two or three of you, because then Christ is with you in a more significant way.

Is this verse...

The main point?

A subpoint?

The start of a thought?

The end of a thought?

Part of a bigger thought?

The most significant point of this passage?

A “aside” or “marginal thought” in this passage?

In context we find this meaning.

The church has the authority to act on behalf of Christ in discipline cases, but decisions need to be made by two or three who check to make sure that the evaluation is correct, and done with a process that includes the opportunity for repentance and restoration.

It is step four in a process, step five is to forgive. This is a text about church discipline.

The two or three are witnesses that give it validity

Deut **19:15** –One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Quoted in **2 Cor 13:1** – second visit to you. Every matter...

And in **I Tim 5:19** – “Don’t entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses.

Some things can be seen immediately – but how can we train ourselves to do this better?

Flow master

Matthew 18:15-22

¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you,

go and show him his fault,

just between the two of you.

If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.

¹⁶ But if he will not listen,

take one or two others along,

so that ‘every matter may be established

by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’

¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them,

tell it to the church;

and if he refuses to listen even to the church,

treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ “I tell you the truth,

whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven,

and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ “Again, I tell you

that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for,

it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰

For where two or three come together in my name,

there am I with them.”



21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked,
“Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother
when he sins against me?
Up to seven times?” 22 Jesus answered,
“I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.2

How does the flow master work?

1. Copy the text into a word processor. Make sure you have copied according to the big flow of thought in a passage, so that you are not dividing something in the middle
2. Move sub points to the right, main points to the left
3. Leave a space to indicate breaks in thought
4. Keep sub points parallel, so that everything at the same level has basically the same level of importance.
5. Take note of repeated phrases and words
6. Take note of connecting words
7. Take note of parallel thoughts (a repetition of the same point, just in different words)
8. Go through it again to make sure you have it as accurate as possible
9. Now, make observations based on the flow of thought in the text
10. You can also create an outline that summarizes what you found.

Web sites for practice text

Albanian - http://albikristian.com/bibla_shqip/

Croatian - http://www.wbtc.com/site/PageServer?pagename=downloads_croatianhttp://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Evan%C3%B0elje+po+Mateju+1&version=CRO

Czech - <http://online.bible21.cz/> - NBK

<http://www.biblenet.cz/> - CEP

<http://www.bible-online.cz> – Multiple versions, Czech, Slovak, Ukrainian

English - <http://biblos.com/>

Estonian - www.piiibel.net

Latvian - www.bibele.lv/bibele/bibele.php

Polish - <http://www.biblia.info.pl/biblia.php>

Romanian - <http://www.nathan.co.za/romanian.asp>

Serbian - <http://www.wyu.com/biblija/>

Slovak - <http://www.ceit.sk/wwwisis/biblia.htm>

Slovenian - <http://www.biblija.net/biblija.cgi?Bijbel=Bijbel&l=sl>

Ukrainian - http://b.isuspan.com/Biblia_Ukr_Ogjenko/index.html

