

# Applying the Truth

1. We are to be doers not hearers and so are our students

James 1:22 But be ye **doers** of the word, and not **hearers only, deceiving your own selves.** <sup>23</sup> For if any be a **hearer** of the word, and not a **doer**, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: <sup>24</sup> For he **beholdeth** himself, and goeth his way, and straightway **forgetteth** what manner of man he was. <sup>25</sup> But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being **not a forgetful hearer**, but a **doer of the work**, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

2. Our goal is not only to explain the text but to apply it

3. Topical preaching or teaching is often application heavy and not really drawn from the text. Bible teachers can dump info and give truth without any application. We must stay away from both extremes
4. The Scriptures were not written for information but for transformation. The Scriptures are relevant if we can bridge the gap which is our job to do
5. Our job is to take the truth, apply it to their lives, explain how and why it is relevant, and encourage them to make the changes the Scripture is teaching
6. Our job is to first find the truth
  - a. What was meant when it was written
  - b. Who said it to who
  - c. What type of literature is it
  - d. How does it fit in with the rest of Scripture

- e. What did the author mean when he was given that text
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- 7. We do not have to make Scripture relevant simply understand how it applies, how it is practical
    - a. Give them illustrations and examples
    - b. Make suggestions to how it might work in their life right now
    - c. Use the Bible to illustrate the Bible
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- 8. Good teaching should be persuasive. They should be challenged to apply the truth to their lives
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- 9. The preaching saying is, so what and now what
    - a. The application is the main thing to be done from that text
    - b. The application is actually where the lesson begins—how does this truth apply to me
    - c. The truth should drive them to love God more

- d. What they learn and know should lead them to do something
- e. It is the bridge between the Word of God and the world we live in
- f. It is the call for action from the Scriptures

10. Our teaching has accomplished its purpose till the student is thinking and acting differently because of the Word of God

11. Preaching or teaching applied is obedience to the Word of God

- a. All behavior is based on belief
- b. Behind every sin is a lie I believe.
- c. Change always starts in the mind.
- d. To help people change, we must change their beliefs first.
- e. Trying to change people's behavior without changing their belief is a waste of time.

- f. The biblical term for "changing your mind" is "repentance."
- g. You do not change people's minds, the applied Word of God does.
- h. Changing the way I act is the fruit of repentance.
- i. The deepest kind of preaching is preaching for repentance.

12. Be careful that our application is Christ centered and not morality centered

- a. We do not want to slip into legalism
- b. Make sure the student sees the greatness of God and His grace
- c. Make sure they see His love
- d. Be sure that we are not trying to manipulate a certain behavior

13. Always ask any text these 13 questions

- a. Is there an example for me to follow?

- b. Is there a sin to avoid or confess?
- c. Is there a promise to claim?
- d. Is there a prayer to repeat?
- e. Is there a command to obey?
- f. Is there a condition to meet?
- g. Is there a verse to memorize?
- h. Is there an error to avoid?
- i. Is there a challenge to face?
- j. Is there a principle to apply?
- k. Is there a habit to change, either to start or to stop?
- l. Is there an attitude to correct?
- m. Is there a truth to believe?