

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Yr. Ambassadors

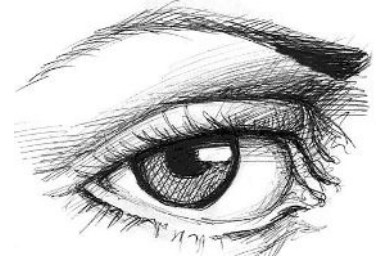
## Lesson 17



# Do You See What I See?

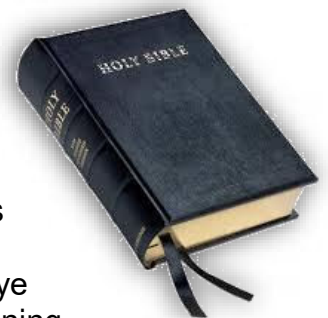
## Lesson Study: Read 1 Timothy Chapters 1 and 2

If you study the Bible without understanding its meaning, then Bible Study can be useless. You cannot apply God's Word to your life until you understand what it first means. There are times when you may have difficulty distinguishing what you see in the Bible and what it actually means. So here are some principles that you should always use when interpreting or understanding the meaning of the Bible.



## Principles

1. **Pay Attention to the Context** of a chapter, verse or paragraph in the Bible as it may relate to other chapters in the same book. Those chapters may have relationship with other chapters and books in the Bible.
2. **Interpret Scripture with Scripture.** Before you seek to interpret the Bible see what it has to say about itself first. When you want to know what the Bible says about a specific subject, **you must always consider what the entire Bible says.** In other words, **do not seek a meaning from just one verse.** There are supporting verses that clarify the meaning.
3. **Look at Scripture Literally First.** When reading the Bible, take it as it is. Look for clarity of the text and don't assume about hidden meanings. When you discover figurative language, which is words or phrases that describe, recognize it as illustrative. For instance, "If your eye offends you, pluck it out." The Bible is not teaching you to pull your eye out when you sin or when it bothers you. This is illustrating a greater meaning.
4. **Beware of Cultural Differences.** Culture is the beliefs, values, and traditions of a particular group of people that makes their group unique. Casting lots, washing feet, wearing sackcloth and ashes, sacrificing animals-were all common cultural practices during Bible times. We don't practice these acts today. For example, in Deuteronomy 22:8 instructions are given about building a wall or railing around the flat roof of a house. The principle here is looking out for the safety of family and visitors. Many roofs today are not flat and do not have walls around them. That's why the **specific instruction** here may not apply to us today.



Also, consider the culture of the city of Corinth when Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 11:6 regarding worshipping in public. He wrote *“If the woman does not cover her head, she might as well cut her hair. And since it is a shameful thing for a woman to shave her head or cut her hair, she should cover her head.”* When Paul wrote this verse, the only women in Corinth who cut their hair and didn’t cover their head were prostitutes that hung around the temple. The problem was that many Christian women in the church had stopped covering their heads and were causing controversy and confusion because of their appearance that looked like these prostitutes.

In America, whether a woman covers her head or doesn’t is not associated with prostitution, so this rule that Paul speaks about does not apply to the young ladies today, **isn’t that right Ambassadors?**



**Remember, Culture never excuses society from biblical guidelines.** For example, some African and European cultures practice open nudity. However, God clearly says in the Scriptures that He wants us to be modest and our bodies covered (Gen. 3:21; 9:22; 1 Tim. 2:9). Though we cannot expect non-Christians to conform to God’s guidelines, Christians **DO** need to

examine culture in light of biblical truth. Understanding culture in Bible Study is important because **it helps us identify what applied to a specific group of people in history.** By identifying cultural practices, **we can discern which Bible teachings apply to us directly or indirectly.** On the other hand, we need to be careful not to disregard Scripture just because specific points do not fit our modern perspective.

**Principles of Scripture should always be observed and obeyed. What was the original meaning?**

## **What Do You See?**

Have you ever heard someone say, *“Well, that’s your interpretation. My interpretation is different from yours.”* **Can both interpretations be true?** Other people say, *“You can believe what you want to believe, and I’ll believe what I want to believe.”* These types of responses are what are known as **Subjectivism.** Subjectivism is a doctrine that individual feeling or experiences are the ultimate criteria for deciding what is good, true and right. **However, the Bible is never relative. God doesn’t intend for us to get different meanings out of the same verse; however, the Holy Spirit may apply that verse differently to a different person. Interpret the Bible objectively (not according to your feelings), and you will avoid the pitfalls of subjectivism.**

**“The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.”** Isaiah 55:10-11

# Living the Lesson

Many of today's cults "**interpret**" the Bible incorrectly. This "**interpretation**" includes disregarding whole passages of Scripture if they contradict what the cultists have chosen to believe, as well as ignoring the context of Scripture. Below are listed false teachings from a variety of cults. Match the false teaching with the Bible verse that disproves that teaching. You can ask your mentor to help you with this.

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| 1. Jehovah Witnesses do not believe in a literal place of fire called hell.                                      | <b>A. Revelation 22:18-20</b>              |
| 2. Jehovah Witnesses believe that Jesus rose again from the grave as a spirit, not a physical Person.            | <b>B. Jeremiah 17:9</b>                    |
| 3. Christian Science teaches that evil is a figment of our imagination and has never really existed.             | <b>C. Deuteronomy 6:4</b>                  |
| 4. Christian Science teaches that God could not have come to earth as a man.                                     | <b>D. Matthew 27:50 and John 19:30, 33</b> |
| 5. Christian Science teaches that Jesus didn't really die on the cross, but everyone merely thought he was dead. | <b>E. John 1:1, 11; Matthew 1:23</b>       |
| 6. Mormonism adds to the Word of God with the Book of Mormon.  | <b>F. Luke 24:39</b>                       |
| 7. Mormonism teaches that there are many gods.   | <b>G. Revelation 19:20; Luke 16:23</b>     |

For further study you should read Walter Martin's Kingdom of the Cults.

**Now click here to watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXnx91kHQGY>

# Ambassadors

## Year 2 Lesson 17 Quiz



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/7RQuKSTagjdHrKZN8>

Complete this assignment and set up a time to meet with an adult mentor who will go over this with you. Mentor, after you have graded this lesson using the Answer Key, please enter the lesson online using the links that were sent in order to receive credit. Thanks.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. In your own words, define context as it relates to Bible study.
2. What must we do when we want to know what the Bible says about a certain matter?
3. True/False. Everything in the Bible should be interpreted literally.
4. What is Culture?
5. List two examples of cultural practices in the Bible.
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6. During the time Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 11:6, what type of women cut or shaved their heads and did not wear head coverings?
7. Why is understanding culture important in Bible study?
8. What is subjectivism? Explain in your own words.
9. True/False. A particular statement in the Bible has only one correct meaning.