

Workshop 2A : Handling the Word with Your Words (Thursday, 2:00 – 2:55)

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” ~ 2 Timothy 2:15

Worldview

“A book doesn’t have to be ‘Christian’ to support a Christian worldview.”
~ Rachelle Gardner

Four principles for rightly handling Scripture in what we write:

1. “Context is king”

“You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means.”
~ Inigo Montoya, *The Princess Bride*

- What does the verse before and after it say?
- What is the thrust of the paragraph?
- What is the intent of the chapter it’s placed in?
- Who is the human author of the book?
- Who was the intended audience?

Example: **Philippians 4:13**

2. Beware of Proof-texting

“The Bible is Not a Quote Book. ~ Dave Fessenden, Author and Agent

Proof-texting is the practice of taking a verse out of context to support a position you have taken rather than what the context says it means.

Example: **Ephesians 6:5**

3. Let Scripture Interpret Scripture

“For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.”
~ Acts 20:27 ESV

Example: **Matthew 7:1**

Matthew 7:6 –

Matthew 7:15-16 –

Luke 17:3 –

John 7:24 –

4. Unpacking Literary Devices in the Bible that may include figurative language.

- Parables:
- Metaphor:
- Simile:
- Hyperbole:
- Anthropomorphism:
- Zoomorphism:

Close:

- Do we study God's word – rightly divide it AND apply it – as intentionally as we study the craft of writing?
- Are we as careful to ensure we're not pulling verses and applications out of context - as we are to show don't tell?
- Are we **as** committed to understanding the context of the verses we read - as we are to ensure that our beginnings hook the reader, our middles don't sag, and our endings satisfy?
- Do we research various translations and word studies as carefully as we choose just the right words to bring the reader into our protagonist's POV?

We are writers and we study the craft of writing to do it well.

Let's be diligent about doing the same as we handle the Word of God!