

## **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!*