

Xenos Christian Fellowship
Christian Ministry 2
Week 6 – Epistles Inductive Study, Part 2
& Introduction to Inspiration

Paragraph Study: Titus 1:10-16

1. Main point

The main point is the heart of your paragraph. It is the action the author is trying to get his readers to take, or the main truth he is trying to communicate. There are several clues in a paragraph that tip readers off to the presence of main point. It may help to ask: WHAT truth is the author trying to get across? WHAT does he want his readers to do?

Clues:

- Imperative statements (commands).
- Words that signal transition or conclusion: thus, so, therefore.
- Overarching, controlling idea.
- Independent clauses expressing a complete thought.

WHAT:

2. HOW and WHY

HOW should we act on the main point?

WHY should we act on the main point?

3. Language

Identify and define the key and difficult words and phrases. Perform word studies using concordances and lexicons available at the Study Center or in Bible software. Look for parallel passages to help explain phrases. In some cases, the style of the paragraph affects its interpretation. This is the case if the author employs sarcasm, parable, diatribe or poetry.

“Sound” (v. 13) is used 4 times in Titus (sound doctrine - 1:9 and 2:1; sound in the faith 1:13 and 2:2, sound in speech 2:8). From the Greek word “hugiano,” it means healthy. Paul is using the example of physical health to describe the effect of sound doctrine and faith on the church.

“Reprove” (Gk: elegcho) means to expose, convict, rebuke. In context, the goal is redemptive - “that they may be sound in faith.”

“Severely,” from (Gk: apotomos), suggests an abrupt, curt correction—a pointed, direct refutation of false teaching.

4. Historical references

Are there any references to locations (e.g. “Crete” in Tit. 1), cultural customs (e.g. “head coverings” in 1 Cor. 11), or other historical references (e.g. “dividing wall” in Eph. 2)? What do these historical references mean? It may be useful to consult a good commentary for historical information.

5. Related Old Testament passages

Sometimes your paragraph will directly quote or allude to a passage or event in the Old Testament. Take note when this happens and use the cross references in a study Bible to learn what you can about the Old Testament passage or event in question.

The term “circumcision” comes from the Old Testament. Infant circumcision was a ritual given by God to Abraham and his physical descendents (Gen. 17:9-14) to be a sign that they were God's people.

6. Theology

What does this paragraph teach about theological issues such as the nature of God, sin, man, Satan, salvation, the church, and the Christian life (leadership, service, suffering, etc.)? It is important to limit your observations to the information in the paragraph at hand and the preceding paragraphs.

Leaders must be vigilant to strongly reprove false Christian teachers. (main point)

- *Leaders should remember that false teachers can sometimes be persuaded to repent.*
- *False doctrine is harmful and destructive to those who are influenced by it.*
- *False teachers can be identified by their unbiblical doctrine (including doctrinal sources) and behavior.*

7. Context

How does this paragraph fit into the overall purposes of the author for this book? Why does he write this paragraph? Why does he include it here? How does it relate to the structure of the book?

8. Broad Application

How does the main point of this paragraph apply to our world today? How does it affect your overall Christian world-view? What are the implications for the church? How does this paragraph contrast to values in the world-system?

9. Group Application

Why do people in your home group need to act on the main point? What will happen to your group if people don't act on the main point? What might prevent someone (cultural pressure, peer pressure, lack of belief/faith, lack of eternal perspective, etc.) from acting on the main point?

10. Personal Application

Why has God directed your attention to this passage right now in your life? What are its implications for your sin problems, relationships and general spiritual growth? What are its implications in the same areas for the people you are serving?

Paragraph Study: Titus 2:1-15

Instructors, ask students to work in pairs and have them perform an inductive paragraph study for Titus 2:1-15. Circulate to check on each group's work, then meet together to discuss results.

1. Main point

WHAT:

2. HOW and WHY

HOW:

WHY:

3. Language

4. Historical references

5. Related Old Testament passages

6. Theology

7. Context

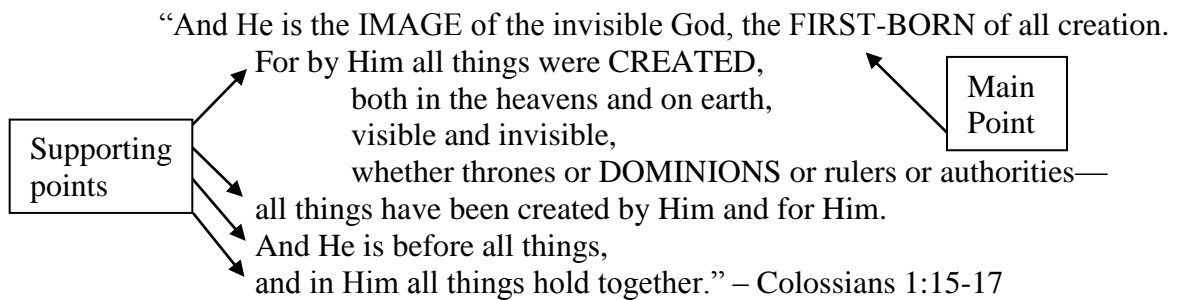
8. Broad Application

9. Group Application

10. Personal Application

How to do a Word Study

1. Select a word to study.



Word	Importance	Reason
“created”	Low	meaning is clear
“image”	High	part of the main point; meaning is unclear
“first-born”	High	part of the main point; is Jesus a created being?
“dominions”	Low	unclear meaning, but not part of the main or supporting points

2. Identify the Greek or Hebrew word that your word is based on.

(1 Timothy 4:9-10) This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance (and for this we labor and STRIVE), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe.

We recommend doing a word study with a New American Standard Bible (NASB) and Concordance. You must use a concordance that is written for the version of the Bible you are using.

A sample entry from the NASB Concordance shows every place in the NASB where “strive” occurs:

Strive

My spirit shall not s with man	Gn 6:3
Did he ever s with Israel, or did	Jg 11:25
He will not always s with us;	Ps 103:9
Those who keep the law s with them	Pr 28:4
“ S to enter by the narrow door;	Lk 13:24
to s together with me in your	Ro 15:30
For it is for this we labor and s ,	1 Tm 4:10

1777
7378
7378
1624
75
4865
75

Concordances assign a reference number to each Hebrew and Greek word in the Bible. Usually italicized numbers denote Greek words and normal font denotes Hebrew words.

Notice that more than one Greek word can be translated as “strive.” Use the reference number next to your verse (in this case, #75 for 1 Tim. 4:10) to identify the Greek or Hebrew word for your verse.

Greek word

transliteration: agonizomai

75. *ἀγωνίζομαι* **agonizomai**, from 73; to contend for a prize, struggle:— competes in the games(1), fight(1), fighting(1), fought(1), laboring earnestly(1), strive(2), striving(1)

range of meaning: different ways agonizomai is translated

number of times agonizomai is translated “striving”

3. Narrow down the range of meaning.

“draw” (English)

- ... draw a picture
- ... draw water from a well
- ... draw a conclusion
- ... draw a wagon

“katargeo” (Greek)

(Rom. 6:6) “Knowing this, that that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin.” (NASB)

καταργέω katargeō; from 2596 and 691; to render inoperative, abolish:— abolished (4), abolishing (1), bring to an end (1), did away (1), do away (1), done away (4), fades away (1), fading (1), fading away (1), nullified (1), nullify (4), passing away (1), released (2), removed (1), render powerless (1), severed (1), use (1).

Look for clues to the correct meaning of the word in the _____ surrounding your verse.

Introduction to the Inspiration of Scripture

“The Bible is true in passages relating to human salvation, they say, but continue: ‘We should not expect total accuracy from the Bible in other, secular matters.’”

(1 Peter 3:15) but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence...

Revelation

General revelation:

Special revelation:

(1 Cor. 2:9-14) “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him.” 10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. 14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Speculation

Definition:

(Isaiah 55:7-9) “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

What about you?

Verbal Plenary Inspiration (VPI)

Definition: *God so moved the human authors of scripture that the resulting product was the Word of God, written totally without error in all that it affirms in the original autographs, in every area including theology, history, geography and science.*

Why must the definition include accuracy in things like history, geography and science? Why not just theology?

“Inspiration” does NOT mean:

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(2 Tim. 3:16*) All Scripture is *inspired* by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

“inspiration” = theopneustos: literally "God-breathed"

(2 Pet. 1:20,21*) But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

There are **two important qualifications to this definition** of inspiration:

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Figures of speech –

Precision –

Narration does not equal affirmation –

Literary genres –

Selective history does not equal errant history –

Topical arrangement –

Irregularities of grammar and spelling –

"Why does it matter that we have a high view of scripture?"

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Memory Verses & Assignment

2 Timothy 3:16,17* - All scripture is "God-breathed."

2 Peter 1:20,21* - All scripture has its origin in God rather than in humans.

Assignment

Read chapters 1-5 of *Does Inerrancy Matter* (see handout). Write a one-paragraph summary of each chapter.

Read chapter 4 of *The Case for Christ* (see handout). Write a one-paragraph summary of the chapter.