**Practice at Home: EXEGETE – Colossians 3:1-17**

**OBSERVATIONS[[1]](#footnote-1)**

1. **READ WITH A PURPOSE**

**WHO:**

Who spoke it? About Whom? Who are the Major Characters? Who are the people mentioned? To Whom is the author speaking?

**WHAT:**

What is the purpose of the passage? What does the author discuss most? What are the people to do or not do? What are the main events? What are the major Ideas and/or teachings? Are there other passages that express the same purpose or meaning?

**WHEN:**

When does this event take place? When will it happen? When did he say it? Etc.

**WHERE:**

Where was this done? Where was this said? Where will it happen?

**WHY:**

Why was there a need for this to be written? Why was this mentioned in the first place? Why was it not mentioned? Why was so much or so little space devoted to this particular event or teaching? Why was this reference mentioned?

**HOW:**

How is it done? How is this truth illustrated?

1. **LIST MAJOR OBSERVATIONS:[[2]](#footnote-2)**

**Look for Key Words or Phrases**

What key words or phrases does the author use? What significance is this? Why are they used? How are they used? In what context is the word/phrase used? Etc.

**OBSERVATIONS (Continued):**

**Repetition of Words or Phrases:**

Are any words or phrases **repeated**? If so, what is the significance of this word or phrase? Why is it repeated? What point is the author trying to make?

**Comparisons & Contrasts**

What are the comparisons, if any?

What are the contrasts, if any?

Why does the author bring about comparisons and/or contrasts?

What is the purpose of these comparisons/contrasts?

**Purpose Statements (Terms of Conclusion and Result)**

Are there any “Purpose” phrases, such as, “So that,” “In order that,” or “Therefore.”

**Contrasting Statements**

Are there any Contrasting terms such as, “But,” “However,” “Nevertheless.”

**Expressions of Time**

Words such as, “Then,” “After this,” “until,” and “when,” show timing or sequence of events! They ask the question “When?….”

**Reference Scriptures or Passages**

Are there particular Scriptural references mentioned? If so, why? For what purpose? Is from the OT or another Epistle? How does the author interpret the reference in the particular context?

Are there other passages that mention the same phrases or teachings? (i.e. Col. 3 & Eph. 4:20-32; 5:21-6:9 (1 P 2:13-20 re. work)

Does this give greater understanding of the passage? Why or why not?

**Doctrine Revealed?**

Is any key doctrine being revealed? Why is it being taught here and for what reason?

**Biblical Principle**

Is the author establishing a life principle? If so, why is the author establishing it? For whom? Is it for the particular people and time or is it for all times? (ex. Women wearing pants; Men should have short hair; etc.)

1. All the Observation questions come from either Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All It’s Worth* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2014, fourth ed.) and Kay Arthur, *How to Study Your Bible* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2014). Both these book are foundational for learning how to study the Bible using universal principles. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. All the Observation questions come from Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All It’s Worth* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2014, fourth ed.) and Kay Arthur, *How to Study Your Bible* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2014). Both books are foundational for learning how to study the Bible using universal principles. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)