

Handling God's Word with Your Words

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Worldview

Default or intentional?

Rachelle Gardner once described this:

“Books – including novels written for both the secular and Christian markets “do not have a Christian worldview if their ultimate theme is that there is no God; or that hedonism is the answer to fulfillment in life; or that there are no consequences to a life of drugs or crime . . . characters [may] behave in distinctly un-Christian ways; they might curse or act violently or treat other people badly . . . [even] the Bible doesn't shy away from portraying reality, but the overall message of the Bible is that Jesus was born and died to save us from all that evil. Good wins in the end. . . . Does good triumph over evil? Is there hope? . . . Even in the most secular novels, TV shows, and movies, traditional values such as honesty, integrity, and fidelity are usually upheld. A book doesn't have to be “Christian” to support a Christian worldview.” <https://rachelgardner.com/my-approach-to-christian-worldview/>

When readers read your manuscript, what worldview are you communicating?

Now that we understand this foundation, let's look at one more concept **before** we look at 4 specific principles for rightly handling Scripture in what we write.

Exegesis vs Eisegesis (taking out vs. putting in)

- Always unpack what is in there
- Never put in what you want to be there

How? **4 Principles:**

1. “Context is king”

When we're trying to determine the meaning of a verse, context is one of our most important resources.

- 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?

Exercise:

Philippians 4:13 (NAS) – “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

2. Beware of Proof-texting

Example:

Ephesians 6:5 – slaves obey your masters with respect and fear . . .

3. Let Scripture Interpret Scripture

Scripture will never contradict itself. So if we interpret a particular verse to mean something that contradicts other verses, we've clearly interpreted it wrong!

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

Example: **Matthew 7:1 – “Do not judge so that you will not be judged.”**

Matthew 7:6 - “Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.”

Matthew 7:15-16 - “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.”

Other verses for us to consider are:

Luke 17:3 – “Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.”

John 7:24 - “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

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

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

Close:

2 Tim 2:15 reminds us to, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling the word of truth.**"

- 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 research word studies as carefully as we choose just the right words to bring the reader into our manuscript?

Style Manuals for book manuscripts:

- **Chicago Manual of Style** (CMOS) - standard used by most book publishers
- and
- **Christian Writers Manual of Style** which provides standards for topics we frequently handle in Christian publishing.

Copyright information

Capitalization

Bible references:

- Roman numerals (I, II, III) or **Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3)**
- Names:
 - Psalms (book) vs. Psalm (individual)
 - Revelation, not Revelations)

Divine pronouns:

Resources:

- **Biblegateway.com**
- **BibleHub.com**
- **OpenBible.info**
- **BlueLetterBible.org**