



Alistair McKitterick  
alistair@moorlands.ac.uk

## The Bible Applied to Life

1. How to Apply the Bible
2. How the Bible Shapes our Actions
3. Conversations between Bible and Culture
4. Putting it into Practice



### How do I apply Scripture to this problem?



### How do I apply Scripture to this problem?

- Matt 13:52 He said to them, 'Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.'



### How do I apply Scripture to this problem?

**THE STANDSTILL** 14 JUNE 2017  
**Tim Farron's resignation symbolises the decay of liberalism**  
Western liberalism owes an incalculable amount to Christianity, much more so than most modern liberals know or care to admit.



### How do I apply Scripture to this problem?

- Matt 22:21 'Then he said to them, 'So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.'

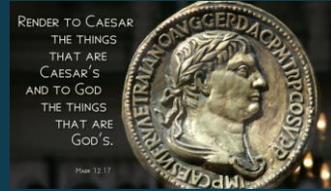


## How do I apply Scripture to this problem?

"Let's look at the law that was passed: as a democratically elected Liberal MP I will uphold the law of the land. And as a Christian I will uphold what I God requires me to uphold."



## Meaning and Significance



## Different Ways of Reading Scripture

- **History book**
- *Beautiful literary art*
- **Theological Creed**
- *Love letter*
- **DISCIPLESHIP MANUAL**



## Fourfold Way of Reading Scripture

- Literal Reading
- Understand God and us
- What the future holds
- How to live well

• 2 Tim 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.



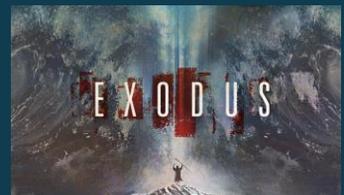
## Fourfold Way of Reading Scripture

- Literal Reading
- Doctrine (Faith)
- The future (Hope)
- Living morally (Love)



## Fourfold Way of Reading Scripture

- Literal Reading
- **Faith**
- *Hope*
- **LOVE**



## Fourfold Way of Reading Scripture

- 2 Kings 6:4  
They went to the Jordan and began to cut down trees. <sup>5</sup>As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron axe-head fell into the water. 'Oh no, my lord!' he cried out. 'It was borrowed!'
- <sup>6</sup>The man of God asked, 'Where did it fall?' When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it there, and made the iron float. <sup>7</sup>'Lift it out,' he said. Then the man reached out his hand and took it.



## Fourfold Reading of 2 Kings 6:4-7

- Literal Reading
- **Faith**
- *Hope*
- **LOVE**



## Reading the Bible as Story



## Reading the Bible as Story



## Reading the Bible as Story

**hedonist**  
/hē-don-ist/  
noun  
a person who believes that the pursuit of pleasure is the most important thing in life; a pleasure-seeker



## Reading the Bible as Story



## Reading the Bible as Story

- **Exodus 3:6** 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.'
- **Exodus 20:2** 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>3</sup> You shall have no other gods before me.'



## Reading the Bible as Story

- **1 Peter 2:9**  
But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
- <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.



## Reading the Bible as Story

- **Heb 4:11** Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.



## Reading the Bible as Story

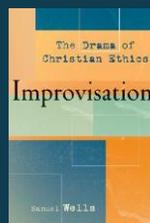
- 'I can only answer the question, "What am I to do?" if I can answer the prior question, "Of what story do I find myself a part?"'

• Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue*



## The 5-Act Drama of Scripture

1. Creation
2. Israel
3. Jesus
4. Church
5. New Creation



## The 5-Act Drama of Scripture

How to improvise well:

- **(Faith)** Know the tradition
- **(Hope)** Know the plot
- **(Love)** Be open to interact with others



## The 5-Act Drama of Scripture

E.g.: Immigration

- (Faith) Acts 17, Zech 8
- (Hope) Rev 7:9 Every tribe
- (Love) Unity and diversity, Samaritan



## How the Bible Shapes our Actions

- Just a start:
  - Departure
  - Direction
  - Destination
- Contrast with the world



## How the Bible Shapes our Actions

- Romans 12:2  
Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.



Newark Ministries  
GROWING GODLY LEADERS

**CAPTIVATED**  
hearing God's Word