Because the Bible is about Jesus & how *He fulfills all of God’s promises*, every part of the Bible is meant to *reveal His Person & work* (not every verse, but every idea & story). Getting to the heart of the message will involve 3 Things:

**1st – FCF – *Fallen Condition Focus***

The effects of the fall that all people share & that requires the work of Christ for us & in us. It includes sin’s ***root*** (fallen worship at the *heart/desire/belief* level) & sin’s ***fruit*** (fallen works at the *word/deed* level) - It also includes the *non-sinful condition* of living in a fallen world. The FCF gives the reason the text was written.

To identify the FCF – ask one of the following:

Why was this passage written?

What need is this passage addressing?

What is the root & fruit of sin in this passage?

Is a fallen reality apart from direct identification to sin requiring the text to be written?

**2nd – BIG T – *Big Gospel Truth***

All scripture is *about* Christ, *testifies* about Christ, *reveals* Christ - **To *study, read, interpret, apply & teach* any passage w/out landing at Christ - Is not only to *MISS* the intended meaning of the passage - But also to teach an *unchristian & powerless* message**.

The BIG T = the worth & work of Christ for us in any given passage. To identify the BIG T ask one of the following:

What is the worth & work of Christ ***FOR***us in this passage?

How does this passage testify to Christ?

How is Christ revealed to be working in this passage?

How is His grace seen & known in this passage – either directly or indirectly?

**3rd – BIG A – *Big Application of the Gospel***

The BIG A is the ***fruit*** of the Gospel, not the Gospel itself (don’t confuse the *root* w/the *fruit* – The work *FOR* us vs. the work *IN* us). It is the application of the gospel, which is the whole of Christian existence -This is what the passage is doing to the hearer. To identify the BIG A – ask one of the following:

What is the work of Christ ***IN*** us in this passage?

What is the fruit of the gospel in this passage?

What is the text doing?

**The work of Christ in us can be displayed either as a *direct* work of grace in us - Or as an *indirect* work of grace in us** (i.e. the human response – faith, obedience, awe, worship, fear, thankfulness, etc.)

**4th – The DT – *Dominant Thought of the passage***

Discover the ***Main idea or dominating idea*** of what is being talked about.

* Melt all main ideas into one concise statement - This statement is what the passage is talking about (Theme).
* Main points are what the passage is saying about the DT.
* Identify which of the Big Ideas (FCF, BIG A, BIG T) is the DT.