

illustrate one basic point. 6. Doctrine The book of Romans gives the fundamental principles of the faith. (7) Psalms – David used emotional and flowery language, generally about every day experiences. (8) Allegory – It is a veiled presentation in a figurative story. See: Judges 9:8-15.

G. One should discover the purpose of the writing. (1) I John - Security of Salvation. (2) I & II Timothy - Instructions to a young minister. (3) James - Challenge to do good works because one is saved. (4) John - Demonstrates the deity of Christ through the "I AM" declarations of Jesus.

H. One should take the clear passage over the obscure. For example, one may find an obscure passage which may seem to teach that one is saved by works. However, Romans 3:28 clearly states that we are justified without the works of the law.

I. One should take the many passages over the few. Sometimes we may find a few passages which may seem to teach a truth, but there are many others which teach just the opposite. We should choose the many passages (Matthew 18:16).

J. Does it make sense? This is a good rule of thumb to follow because God is not the author of confusion (I Corinthians 14:33).

K. One of the most deceptive and greatest dangers is to take one truth to the exclusion of others. For example, God is both a God of love and also a God of wrath. For the Believers, God's wrath was satisfied when Jesus died upon the cross, but disobedient Believers still will face the discipline of

God (Hebrews 12:5-11). However, those unbelievers who reject the gospel unto death will face the judgment and wrath of God.

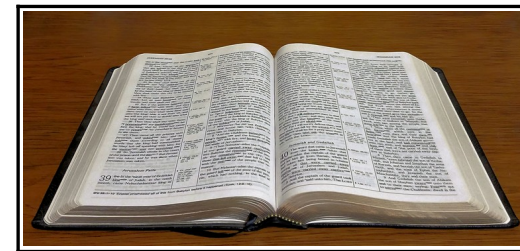
L. We must be cautious of being the Lone Ranger in interpretation. (II Peter 1:20). It is good to research the works others (commentaries) to see if they have found the truths what we have found. Generally, what God reveals to us is most likely also what He has already revealed to others in the past to some degree.

M. There is the "Law Of First Mention". This simply means that the first time something is mentioned, it usually sets the stage for interpretation of the following uses of the word, topic, or thought in Scripture. (Matthew 22:31-32).

N. Revelation is often progressive in nature. (Colossians 1:26-27). The Old Testament gives a backdrop for the New Testament, but the New Testament gives the greater light. For example: God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:" (Genesis 1:26). However, we can now clearly see the trinity in the plural "us". (Matthew 28:19).

O. Application. How can we apply the meaning of the passage to our own lives? Knowledge alone often leads to pride. However, revelation of truth should bring a responsibility to obey the Word. "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22).

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“What Saith The Scriptures?”

Paul used this expression in Romans 4:3 and Galatians 4:30. Furthermore, Jesus raised a similar question? (Matthew 19:4, 21:42). The Bereans were more noble than the Jews at Thessalonica because they searched the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11).

A Basic premise:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16-17). This simply means that the Scripture is God-breathed and is for our benefit in every area of our lives. See Psalms 119.

Origin Of Texts

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Peter 1:21). God set aside and the Holy Spirit moved certain men to write the Holy Scriptures.

God has and will preserve His Word. (Psalm 12:6-7). (Isaiah 40:8). (Matthew 24:35). (I Peter 1:25). God preserved His Word in Old Testament times though the

holy priesthood and the New Testament through the priesthood of believers.

In contrast, some believe that they must reconstruct the Bible to meet their own doctrines. Some of the doctrinal changes are: (1) taking away from the deity of Christ, (2) the omission of the virgin birth, (3) the watering down of the reality of hell or eternal punishment, (4) the omission of the manifestation of miracles in the lives of believers, and (5) changing God to be a female gender. (II Corinthians 2:17).

We are warned in at least three places in Scripture not to add to or take away from the Word. (Deuteronomy 4:2). (Proverbs 30:5-6). (Revelation 22:19).

We should understand that God breathed and preserved the texts that should produce a viable translation. The translation should produce appropriate interpretations. The interpretations should reveal spiritual truths that should bring personal applications.

Elements of Biblical Interpretation

A. Prayer is a basic element. Since God is the author of the Bible, one should seek to ask Him for the meaning (Ephesians 1:16-20). One major work of the Holy Spirit is to guide us into truth. (John 16:13).

B. Studying. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15). Study involves reading, memorizing, and meditation upon the Word. Study is also discovering what other Believers have gleaned from the Word.

Some Basic Tools

A. A good basic Bible translation such as the King James Version or the more modern New King James Version, both of which are based upon the same Hebrew "Masoretic" texts and "Textus Recptus" or "Majority Text" of the New Testament.

B. A good study Bible with good column cross references. There are also good electronic apps for your computer or phone with word searches as well as other tools.

C. A Bible Dictionary in which you can look up names, places, and events.

D. A good concordance such as the. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance.

E. Some reliable commentaries. A simple conservative, one volume commentary, is the Commentary On The Whole Bible by Jamieson, Fausset and Brown.

F. Word Study books are also often helpful.

G. Lexicons are great tools to look up words in the original languages (of Hebrew and Greek) for advanced students.

Principles of Interpretation

A. Scripture interprets Scripture. This means that if you find what seems to be a truth in one place in Scripture, you should find it other places as well. (Deuteronomy 17:6).

B. Context is very important. This means that you read the verses before and after the

passage. Pulling a verse out of its context can be very misleading and dangerous.

C. Culture is important. Each culture has its own idioms. If we don't understand the culture, we may miss or misunderstand the meaning of the passage. For example: (Ruth 4:8). There was a custom that a man would yield rights to property by removing his shoe.

D. The historical context is also important. What was the date of the writing? What were the conditions under which the passage was written? This gives perspective (Joshua 1:1-2).

E. The character of the author of the book should be considered. God used the character of the writers in communicating his Word. (1) John, the author of the gospel, the epistles, and Revelation, wrote in simple, but profound thought. (2). Luke, the physician, was meticulous in his accounts in the book of Acts. (3) Paul wrote with never ending sentences.

F. One should understand the nature of different types of literature. 1. History - Genesis, I and II Chronicles are some Old Testament examples. The book of Acts is a history of the early church. 2. Poetry - Some of these books are Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Songs of Solomon. 3. Prophecy - Some major prophets are Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. Some of the minor prophets are Hosea, Joel, and Amos. Prophecy also both forth told truths and foretold events. 4. Wisdom - Proverbs gives nuggets of truth. 5. Parables - They are stories told to