

How to Study the Bible

Part Four

October 4, 2023

- Last Week:
 - The number-one rule of Bible interpretation: we must let the Bible speak for itself.
 - We must practice _____, not eisegesis.
 - Exegesis = drawing the correct interpretation “out of” the text
 - Eisegesis = reading interpretations “into” the text
 - We must understand that no Scripture is of any _____ interpretation.
 - We must not fall into the error of _____ in our approach to interpreting the Scripture.
 - We must follow this procedure for rightly dividing the Word.
 - Comprehension, _____, Illustration, Application
 - We must develop our language and _____ skills if we wish to practice sound exegesis.
 - Both for ourselves
 - And for our children
- This Week:
 - The principles of correct interpretation of God’s Word:
 - The literal, _____, contextual, grammatical, synthetical, and practical principles
- The _____ Principle
 - Interpret passages in a _____ way.
 - Literal = the plain, normal sense of words
 - The Bible does contain figures of speech, symbolism, and allegories, but in general:
 - *“If the _____ sense makes sense, seek no other sense.”*
 - One helpful question to ask:
 - *“If I were reading this passage for the first time without any _____ ideas, what does it seem to be saying?”*
 - Foundational Assumption
 - Every word of the Scripture is important and _____.
 - Literal interpretation is built upon the doctrine of _____, verbal inspiration.
 - Plenary = every
 - Verbal = the _____
 - Inspiration = “God-_____”
 - Scripture _____ with God and is therefore of “no private interpretation.”

- Is plenary, verbal inspiration Biblical?
 - Psalm 12:6: _____
 - Prov. 30:5-6: _____
 - Don't take away any of God's pure words.
 - Don't _____ to God's words.
- Violations of the Principle
 - Looking for mystical meanings or special _____ in the text
 - Twisted interpretations of the _____
 - Reinterpreting the Bible in the light of modern thought
 - _____ interpretations associated with Catholicism, _____ theology, amillennialism, etc.
 - Modern Bible versions that use a "thought-for-thought" approach to translation rather than "word-for-word," or are outright _____.
 - Other passage-specific examples of bad interpretation
- Examples of the Principle
 - Jesus' approach to interpretation:
 - Plenary, verbal
 - Matt. 5:18, Matt. 4:4: _____
 - _____ = smallest letter
 - Tittle = smallest part of a letter
 - Literal
 - Matt. 12:39-42: _____
 - Jonah was a real person who really did spend three days in a whale's belly (Jonah 1:17).
 - The people of Nineveh really repented at Jonah's preaching.
 - _____ was a real man of great wisdom.
 - The Queen of Sheba was a real person who really visited him.
 - Matt. 19:4-6: _____
 - Adam and Eve were _____ people.
 - God really _____ them as described in Genesis account (no theistic evolution).
 - It happened at the _____ of time, as Genesis 1:1 says (no gap theory, day/age theory).
 - _____ really is for one man and one woman for life (as God intended).
- To summarize the importance of literal interpretation:
 - *"Thou shalt understand, therefore, that the scripture hath but _____ sense, which is the _____ sense. And that literal sense is the root and ground of all, and the anchor that never faileth, whereunto if thou cleave, thou canst never _____ or go out of the way. And if thou leave the literal sense, thou canst not but go out of the way..."*
 - William Tyndale, *The Obedience of a Christian Man*