

STUDY PACK 6

SOME BRIEF AND BASIC RULES FOR BIBLE INTERPRETATION

Rule 1 **THE BIBLE SHOULD BE INTERPRETED BY A _____
WITH _____,
II TIMOTHY 3:16-17**

Rule 2 **PRAY**

Rule 3 **STUDY AN _____ OF SCRIPTURE**

- A. The King James Bible in English.
- B. The _____ Massoretic Text.
- C. The _____ New Testament.
- D. In _____ you should avoid translations by modernists from the Critical Text.

Rule 4 **SCRIPTURE IS OF _____,
II PETER 1:21**

It doesn't matter what you think that Scripture says. It only matters what it actually says. To falsely claim that the Scripture says something is to bear false witness in the worst possible way. Don't read your own ideas into the Scripture.

Rule 5 **SCRIPTURE IS THE ULTIMATE INTERPRETER OF SCRIPTURE**

- A. The Westminster Confession (1647) declares:

"IX. The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the _____
_____ ; and therefore, when there is a question about the
true and full sense of any Scripture (which is not manifold, but one), it
must be searched and known _____
_____."
- B. Example - many people want to use Revelation 3:5 to teach salvation by works (contradicting the many passages about salvation by faith). However I John 5:5 gives the proper understanding of "overcoming." (See also Rev. 12:11.)

Rule 6 **ALWAYS INTERPRET HARD TO UNDERSTAND PASSAGES BY
_____**

As Augustine remarks:

"Admirably and healthily the Spirit has so arranged the Scriptures that by the plainer passages he might meet our desires and by the obscurer remove our contempt and, we feed in the _____, we are exercised by the _____; there hunger is driven away, here contempt." ~ *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*, p. 144 ~

Rule 7 DEFINE EACH WORD CAREFULLY WITH A BIBLICAL DEFINITION

Example - The N.T. gives meanings to baptism and church that go far beyond the normal everyday use of the word.

Rule 8 INTERPRET EACH PHRASE ACCORDING TO _____

A. Clark Pinnock writes:

"Scripture is to be read in its natural sense and proper context. We are to ascertain what the writer wished to say by interpreting his words according to the customary, socially accepted meaning of those words. To abandon this principle of literal interpretation is to forsake all serious exegesis. Christian theology rests on what the biblical writers meant to teach, not on what some interpreter _____. What we have left when we leave the literal sense is _____. Luther confessed:

'When I was a monk, I was an expert in allegories. I allegorized everything. Since the time when I began to embrace the historical meaning I have always abhorred allegories and have not used them unless either the text itself exhibited them or (allegorical) interpretations could be cited from the New Testament.'

The literal sense is the starting point for all further reflection, and the only check for willful tampering with truth."

~ *Biblical Revelation*, pp. 210-211 ~

B. Sometimes the obvious natural meaning _____.
Example - "Herod is a fox."

Rule 9 CAREFULLY DETERMINE THE CONTEXT OF ANY BIBLICAL STATEMENT

A, _____ or _____ is the subject of the statement?

B. _____?

God?
Christ?

A prophet?
Satan?
A villain?

C. To _____ is the Scripture _____?

Old Testament Israel?
The church?
The New Testament saint?
The millennial saints?

**Rule 10 REMEMBER THAT THE KING JAMES BIBLE DIRECTLY
TRANSLATES HEBREW AND GREEK IDIOMS INTO ENGLISH**

- A. Hebrew and Greek idioms are not replaced with English idioms.
- B. You will need to learn Hebrew and Greek figures of speech, parables, symbols, etc.

Rule 11 SOME PROPHECIES WILL HAVE _____, _____

**Rule 12 CAREFULLY RECOGNIZING THE PROPER GRAMMATICAL
STRUCTURE OF SCRIPTURE**

Grammar and punctuation does matter -
Pardon - impossible to be executed
Pardon impossible - to be executed

Rule 13 WHEN YOU AND THE BIBLE DISAGREE - _____

Rule 14 THE PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE IS TO PRESENT CHRIST

Roy B. Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation*, p. 44, describes John Wycliffe's rules for Bible Interpretation:

"John Wycliffe (ca. 1330-1384) was an outstanding Reformer and theologian, who strongly emphasized the authority of Scripture for doctrine and Christian living. Thus he opposed the traditional authority of the Catholic Church. He proposed several rules for Bible interpretation: (a) obtain a reliable text, (b) understand Scripture's logic, (c) compare parts of Scripture with each other, (d) maintain a humble, seeking attitude so that the Holy Spirit can instruct (*The Truth of Holy Scripture*, 1377, pp. 194-205). Stressing the grammatical, historical interpretation of Scripture, Wycliffe wrote that 'all things necessary in Scripture are contained in its proper literal and historical senses.' Wycliffe was the first English translator of the Bible. He has been called 'The Morning Star of the Reformation.'"