

WHAT IF I WANT TO DIG DEEPER?

Sola Scriptura

Two Presuppositions

1. Since God is the author, the Bible is authoritative and wholly trustworthy.
2. Since the Bible is natural in character, the Bible is written in straightforward human language to be taken in its natural sense.

**The goal of Biblical interpretation is to discover the original author's meaning to the original audience, and therefore learning the God-intended meaning.*

Rules to remember

1. What it meant is what it means.
2. The Bible is the best commentary on itself.
3. Human language matters.
4. It all takes us to Jesus and the Gospel.

3 steps to Biblical interpretation

Step 1 — Observation, what does the text say?

- ▶ Read the text - use multiple translations
- ▶ Read the book
- ▶ Ask questions about the text
- ▶ Place the text in its context

Step 2 — Interpretation, what does the text mean

- A. What is the context of the author? - *What is the life situation of the author, who is he, what is his occupation, how is he related to the reader...*
- B. What is the context of the recipient? - *Who was the book intended for, why did the author write to them, what characteristics or problems did they have, where were they located...*
- C. Are there cultural & historical issues? - *What issues did people face, how are they different from us, etc., are there issues in the text that come from their cultural setting? Who is in political power and how does that affect the setting?*
- D. What is the purpose of the book? - *Everything in the book ought to be studied through this filter*
- E. What type of literature is contained in the text? - *prose, poetry, hymn, narrative, epistle, prophetic, apocalyptic...*
- F. Where is the hand of God? - *What is God doing, and how is He working? How does the text take us to the Gospel, our need for Jesus, and his death on the cross?*
-Ultimately, all Scripture is about Him and what He is up to, not about man

Step 3 — Application, applying the Bible to life

The proper response to all scripture is repentance, faith, and obedience to both the direct teachings and the principles of Scripture.

- *Are there promises to be believed?
- *Doctrines to be studied?
- *Principles to apply?
- *Commands to be obeyed?

Four Prerequisites to understanding Scripture

- ▶ Regeneration - *Initial faith is necessary, for the unbeliever cannot understand the things of the Spirit.*
- ▶ Commitment - *Predetermined confidence in the scriptures and yielding to it*
- ▶ Prayer - *It is the evidence of true faith, and the only atmosphere in which full understanding of God's word can occur.*
- ▶ Humility - *It is essential to place oneself below the Scripture and to realize their limitations.*