



When studying the Bible, you always move from general to specific.

- You begin with a general understanding of Scripture.
 - The Bible is God's Word.
 - The Bible is true.
 - The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to humanity.
 - The Bible gives God's guidance for our lives.
- You move to an overall understanding of the book.
 - Who is the author?
 - Who is the audience?
 - Where was it written (setting)?
 - Why was it written (purpose)?
 - What is the style of writing (genre)?
- You work into specific teachings from individual verses.
 - Reading the verses before and after your section
 - What is the writer talking about?

There is one interpretation; there are many applications.

- Correct interpretation means that you interpret the text in the way that the original writer intended for the original audience.
- When you interpret the text correctly, you can apply the text in multiple ways based on overall principles. A text on serving others can be applied in thousands of ways of service. A text on praying fervently can be applied in countless opportunities to pray.

Allow Scripture to be your text, not just your proof text.

- Exegesis is reading out of the Scriptures what the Scriptures say.
- Isogesis is reading into the Scriptures what you think it says.
- Instead of coming to the Bible with a preconceived idea, allow the Bible to shape your ideas.

You must be born again.

- The Holy Spirit quickens the spirit and brings you into fellowship with God. (John 3:1-8)
- The Holy Spirit guides you into all truth. (John 16:13)
- God's Word is truth. (John 17:17)
- Non-Christians do not accept the things of the Spirit and cannot understand the things of the Spirit. They must be spiritually assessed. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

Scripture interprets Scripture.

- Interpret difficult passages in light of clear passages.
- No Scripture stands alone.



Interpret Scripture literally.

- To interpret Scripture literally means to interpret in the literal sense in which it was written. Look at the context.
- The context includes: Author, Audience, Purpose, Setting and Genre.
- The genre is the style of the writing.
- Scripture includes several primary genres: Historical narrative, Poetry, Wisdom literature, Epistles, Prophecy, Apocalyptic writings.
- You do not interpret every genre the same way. You must interpret it in the literal sense in which it was written.

Sound theology is not developed on a single verse.

- When one verse is pulled out of context, and an entire belief system is built upon it—that's usually the beginning of a cult.
- A cult is a group that rejects the fundamental teachings of a religion.
- In Christianity, some of the fundamental teachings are: (1) salvation by grace through faith, (2) the Trinitarian nature of God, (3) Jesus' physical death on the cross and His bodily resurrection, (4) the virgin birth, (5) the deity of Christ, (6) the depravity of humanity, (7) the second coming of Christ, etc.

The Bible does not contradict itself.

- If two texts seem to contradict each other, that means one of two things:
 - You do not fully understand the purpose or meaning of the text.
and/or
 - You have encountered an antinomy.
- Antinomy is when two statements appear contradictory, they cannot be logically resolved, yet both are held to be true because God's Word declares them true.
 - Examples: The Trinitarian nature of God, sovereignty and free will in salvation, the omnipresence of God and Him arriving in certain areas, the omniscience of God, and Jesus learning as a boy, etc.