



Here are Some Basic Rules for Scripture Interpretation.

- If possible have a regular, private place for your Bible studies
- Before each study ask God to give you a spirit of humility while reading His word and guide your heart to comprehending, accepting and practicing His precious truth.
- Start with Bible verses that are easy to understand when studying on a particular topic. Then, use these scriptures to understand harder, vaguer passages of God's word.
- Let the Bible interpret and prove the Bible. Don't look for what you want to prove; look for what the Bible actually proves.
- Seek to understand the general context of a particular Bible verse by reading the verses and chapters just before and after it. Does your understanding of a Bible passage harmonize with the rest of Scripture? Remember, the Bible does not contradict itself!
- Study the original language (Hebrew or Greek) words and their meaning(s) behind a Bible verse. Remember, however, that although study aids like Strong's Exhaustive Concordance can be helpful, they should not be exclusively used to discover and prove what the Bible teaches.
- Ask, what does the scripture you are studying clearly say?
- Ask, what does the scripture you are studying not say?
- Ask, to whom was the Bible book containing the scripture you are studying written to? Who wrote the book? Who is speaking the scripture(s) in question?
- Seek a literal understanding of the scripture you are studying, unless by interpreting the scripture literally renders the meaning absurd.
- Seek to understand the general time frame in history when the Bible verses you are studying was written.
- Remember that the Bible at times uses parables, allegories, symbols, poetry, metaphors and other figures of speech and literary techniques to reveal God's truth.
- Don't bring your own personal assumptions and preconceived notions into your understanding or conclusions.
- Base your study on scriptural knowledge that you already understand. What do you know up to this point in time?
- Do not form conclusions based on partial facts or insufficient information, or the opinions and speculations of others.
- Remember that your or anyone else's convictions, regardless of how strong they may be, don't necessarily count. God's word is your ultimate standard and guide.