

"SCRIPTURE INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE."

Reading the Bible "Literally!"



1. Not all passages of Scripture are equally clear.

2. The clearer passages should interpret the less clear passages.

New Testament interprets Old Testament
Epistles interpret Gospels
Systematic passages interpret incidental and narrative passages
Universal passages interpret more "local" passages
Didactic (Instructive) interprets symbolic, types, parables.

3. The Analogy of Faith:

The teaching of the whole Bible determines specific interpretations.

4. There is one meaning per passage and per word.

"Interpretation is one, application is many."

5. Meaning should be "literal" (the plain sense) unless shown to be otherwise.

Interpretation uses the natural or usual construction
and implication of a writing or expression;
and following the ordinary and apparent sense of words.

**6. Meaning is determined by careful consideration of both historical contexts;
and the literary/ logical contexts within the book.**

7. The final authority of competent interpretation must be the original languages.

**8. It is the Bible as a whole, and not the church,
or any authority outside of Scripture that has the final authority.**

THE PROCESS OF BIBLE STUDY

INDUCTIVE

(Bible, Pen and Paper)



Chart Book

Major Sections

Immediate Context

Zero in on Passage:

OUTLINE & SUMMARIZE

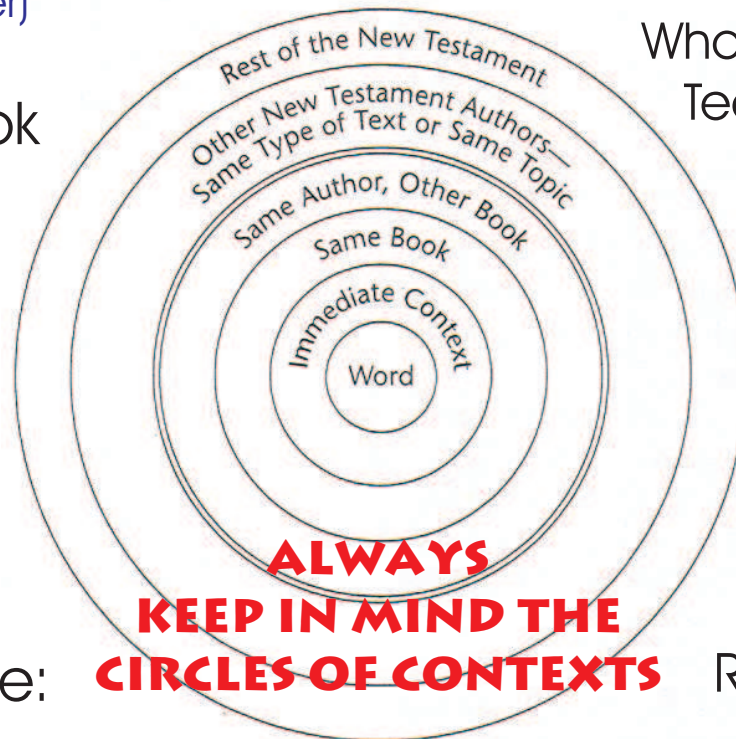


Diagram Sentences



Word Studies

DEDUCTIVE
(External Aids)

Compare Whole Bible's Teaching

Topical Studies

Hist/ Cult Backgrounds

Cross References



SUMMARY & APPLY



DETERMINING MEANINGS

CONTEXTS

"Every text without a context is a pretext" - be careful.

GRAMMAR

1. Simple "diagramming of sentences
2. Always look to the preceding and following verses.
3. The more complex the grammar, the more precision is possible in meaning.
4. Always take in consideration the passage's circles of contexts



WORDS

1. Use several versions.
2. The Amplified suggests all the nuances
3. Use dictionaries, Lexicons, and Wordbooks.
4. Use a concordance, working outward through the circles of context
5. Be aware of cognates - words with the same root
6. Be Selective

Every word should be examined in its contexts both immediate within the sentence, paragraph and book - and throughout the Bible!

CROSS REFERENCES

There are different kinds of cross references:

1. **Verbal cross reference** - a similar expression or wording.
2. **Conceptual cross reference** - a similar idea or thought.
3. **Parallel cross reference** - a parallel account or the same event
4. **Quotations and illusions.**

Cross references are not inspired! Let clearer passages explain the less clear.

FIGURES OF SPEECH

1. **Use caution!**
2. **Stress the principle idea rather than minor details.**
3. **Take into account the Literary genre**

The principle is to seek a literal meaning unless it is clearly indicated by context that something else is intended.