

Bible Study for February 18th

Now that you know what your text says, you must now seek to understand its meaning. There are seven key principles which will help you interpret the Bible correctly:

Principle 1: Remember that Context Rules. The context is the surrounding, verses, chapters, the book, and the entire Word of God.

Principle 2: Always Seek the Full Counsel of the Word of God. The more you read and study the Word of God, the better equipped you will be to understand the Word of God.

Principle 3: Remember that Scripture Will Never Contradict Scripture. Since all Scripture is God-breathed, all Scripture must be true. Since all Scripture is true, it doesn't contradict itself. Therefore, the best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture.

Principle 4: Do Not Base Your Doctrine on an Obscure Passage of Scripture. An obscure passage is a passage whose meaning is not easily understood. You should always base your interpretation of obscure passages upon the clear passages in Scripture.

Principle 5: Interpret Scripture Literally. Interpret the Bible according to its literary style.

Principle 6: Look for the Author's Intended Meaning of the Passage. The Bible means today the same thing it meant when it was originally written. Don't read meaning into the text, read the meaning that is already there out of the text.

Principle 7: Check your Conclusions by Using Reliable Commentaries. This is the first mention of commentaries in our study of Bible study. This is significant. We're doing the work ourselves to see what the Bible says without relying on anyone else to do the work for us. This makes our study much more memorable and rewarding. There is, however, a place for commentaries. Commentaries can be used to check our interpretations. We should be very concerned if we discover something "new" in the text that no one else has ever seen before. It's highly unlikely that you will discover something that no one else in 2,000 years has discovered. A good saying to remember is "If it is new, it is probably not true and if it is true, it is probably not new."

You can also check your interpretation by asking yourself if your interpretation contradicts the context, clear biblical truths or are prejudiced to a particular viewpoint.

If you haven't already, dig into a book of the Bible this week and begin studying!

Weekly Bible studies meet each Tuesday (*except following a holiday*) and Thursday in Capitol Annex Room 436 from 11:30 am till noon. Same study both days to allow flexibility for committee schedules.