

# A Simple Biblical Hermeneutic. What does the Bible say about interpreting the Bible?

## 1. The Preeminence of Christ from Genesis to Revelation.

*Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Heb. 10:7*

*And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 2Ti 3:15*

*And he said unto them, These are the words which I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then he opened their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures ... Luke 24:44-45*

*For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words? John 5:46-47*

## 2. The Holy Spirit Must Be the Teacher.

*A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. Eze 36:26-27*

*However when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: John 16:13*

*But the anointing which ye have received of him abides in you, and you need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teaches you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it has taught you, you shall abide in him. 1Jn 2:27*

*It is written in the prophets, and they shall be all taught by God. John 6:45*

## 3. The Primacy of Love as the Teleos of Scripture.

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,... You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two command-ments hang all the Law and the Prophets. Matt ew 22:37-40*

*...love is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:11,(cf vs.8)*

*For all of the law is fulfilled in this... You shall love your neighbor... Galatians 5:14*

*Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart... 1Ti 1:5*

## 4. The Will to Do God's Will.

*If anyone has a will to do his will, he will know... the doctrine.. . John 7:17*

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:22*

*My sheep hear my voice... and they follow me. John 10:27*

*He leads me beside the still waters... Psalm 23:2b*

## 5. Interpretation Must Agree with Context, both the immediate and global.

*All scripture is given by inspiration and is profitable for doctrine.. .2Tim 3:16*

*Whatever was written before was for our learning... Romans 15:4*

*No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation... 2 Peter 1:20*

## 6. There Must be Multiple Witnesses, not just one passage.

*And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is established by God... Genesis 41:32*

*...at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established. Deut 19:15*

*...that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie... Hebrews 6:17-18*

## 7. Exposure to Perennial Teaching & Preaching, with all of the above in mind.

*...and the things that you have heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2*

*Preach the word; be steadfast in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 2 Timothy 4:2*

*That the older women may be teachers of good things, that they teach the younger women... Titus 2:3-4*

*These things command and teach. 1Timothy 4:11*

*Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. 2 Timothy 2:7*

### **Literal or Figurative?**

If it is narrative it is literal, unless clearly indicated otherwise. (Creation, Balaam's donkey, Jesus' miracles.)

If it is prophetic dream or prophetic vision, it is usually highly symbolic. (Joseph Dreams, Daniel and Ezekiel's Visions, The Revelation) Of course, the symbolic text may represent literal events.

If it is poetic it can be literal or symbolic, or both. Care must be taken to understand it in the broader light of scripture.

### **Historic Context?**

As to the historical context, which is important, the Bible itself contains enough of its own historical background to understand what God intended to say. While extra biblical sources may be interesting and/or helpful, they are not critical.