

Proper Bible Interpretation (Hermeneutics)

2Tim. 3:16-17 (ESV)

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2Pet. 1:20-21 (ESV)

20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2Tim. 2:15 (ESV) - Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Exegesis = "exposition or explanation."

1. Who is speaking?

2. Who is being spoken to?

3. When did it happen?

4. Where did it happen?

5. What is the main theme?

6. What is being said?

RULE #1 - Context. Context. Context.

1. Immediate Context:

Luke 6:38 (ESV) - give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

Luke 6:32-38 (ESV)

32 "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.

35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

37 "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;

38 give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

2. Book Context:

A. Historical Narrative

B. Law Codes

C. Wisdom Literature

D. Poetry and Song (Some have some Prophetic nature)

E. Prophecy/Apocalyptic (OT & NT)

F. Biography and Gospels

G. Letters (Epistles)

3. Other Books by the Same Author:

4. Books by Other Authors:

5. Entire Testament:

6. Entire Bible:

Don't forget cultural, historical and geographical backgrounds.

RULE #II - Comparison with other Scriptures.

RULE #III - Interpret the Bible Literally.

RULE #IV - History and Grammar.

Psalms 22:1a - My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Psalms 22:14-18

14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.

16 For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—

17 I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me;

18 they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

RULE #V - First Mention.

RULE #VI - Progressive Revelation.

RULE #VII - Christ is the Center.

RULE #VIII - Proper Emphasis.

Difficult Passages are usually "Diamonds in the Rough"!