

Systematic Theology Pt. 9
Bibliology (H)

I. Clarity of Scripture - Can only Bible scholars understand the Bible rightly? 2 Peter 3:15-16.

1. The Bible Affirms its Own Clarity.

- A. Deut. 6:6-7, “All the people of Israel were expected to be able to understand the words of Scripture well enough to be able to teach them diligently to their children.” *Note: Not just read them, but discuss them with the idea of understanding and obeying!
- B. Psalm 1, the meditation assumes an ability to understand the Scripture and live by them.
- C. Psalm 19:7, “The testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple.”
- D. Psalm 119:130, “The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.”
- E. See Matt. 12:1-8; Matt. 19:1-5; and Matt. 22:29.
- F. Most of the New Testament epistles are written to entire congregations.
1Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:2; & Phil. 1:1.

2. Definition of the Clarity of Scripture.

“The clarity of Scripture means that the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who will read it seeking God’s help and being willing to follow it.” -Wayne Grudem

3. Why Do People Misunderstand Scripture?

- A. They are unsaved and don’t want to understand it. (1Cor. 2:14).
- B. They are saved but are not submitted to its authority.
- C. They have made mistakes in their interpretation.

1. A proper interpretation is essential for a proper understanding.

2. What are the steps in Bible study?

- Observation- What does the text say?

- Interpretation- What does the text mean?

- Application- How does it apply to me?

II. Interpretation of Scripture

1. The Challenge of Bible Interpretation

- A. A Time Gap- Chronological
- B. A Space Gap- Geographical
- C. The Customs Gap- Cultural
- D. A Language Gap- Linguistic
- E. A Writing Gap- Literary
- F. A Spiritual Gap- Supernatural

2. The Call to Sound Interpretation (2 Tim. 2:15).

- The science and art of interpreting Scripture is called Hermeneutics- it's derived from Hermes the Greek god who brought the message of the gods to the people.
- It is the science (principles) and art (task) by which the meaning of the Biblical text is determined.

3. The Categories of Interpretation.

• **General**- *General Principles of Interpretation* are principles that deal with the overall subject of interpretation. They are universal in nature rather than being limited to special considerations, which are listed in the other three sections.

1. The Bible is authoritative.
2. The Bible interprets itself, let Scripture interpret Scripture.
3. Interpret personal experience in light of Scripture and not Scripture in light of personal experience.
4. Biblical examples are authoritative only when supported by a command.
5. Interpret a passage in harmony with its context.
6. A text means what its Author meant.
7. A text does not have many meanings.
8. Interpret in light of its literary style.

• **Grammatical** - *Grammatical Principles of Interpretation* are principles that deal with the text itself. They lay down the ground rules for understanding the words and sentences in the passage under study.

1. Scripture has only one meaning and should be taken in its natural sense.
2. Interpret a word in relation to its sentence and context.
3. Don't use eisegesis.
4. Do use exegesis.

• **Historical** - *Historical Principles of Interpretation* are principles that deal with the background or context in which the books of the Bible were written. Political, economic, and cultural situations are important in considering the historical aspect of your study of the Word of God.

1. Keep in mind the Historical context.
2. Remember God's revelation is progressive.

3. Interpret history in light of the epistles.

• **Theological** - *Theological Principles of Interpretation* are principles that deal with the formation of Christian doctrine. They are, of necessity, “broad” rules, for doctrine must take into consideration all that the Bible says about a given subject.

1. A doctrine to be Biblical must sum up all that the Scriptures say and teach about it.
2. When two doctrines taught in Scripture appear to be contradictory, accept both as biblical.
3. A teaching implied in Scripture may be considered biblical when a comparison of related passages supports it.

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