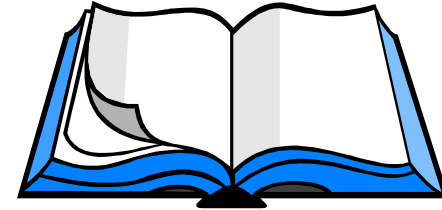


+++ Theological Principles +++

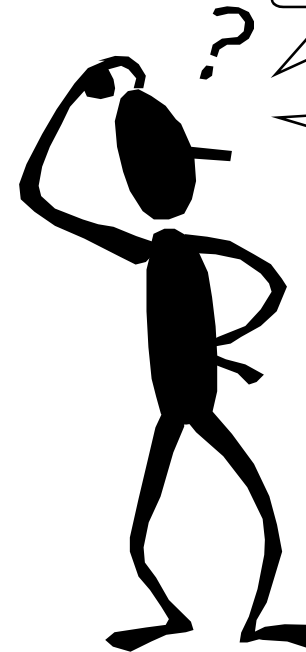
principles dealing with the Bible
(unique among all books)

11. The Bible is the Word of God and all principles for interpreting the Bible must be in agreement with, or derived from, the Scriptures.
12. Only the converted, believing interpreter can come to a true understanding of the contents of Holy Scripture.
13. Because Scripture is of Divine origin and is the very Word of God, it is completely without inconsistency of thought or speech, without any contradiction, and without the slightest error (in the original manuscripts).
14. God is the primary author of all Scripture.
15. Any book of the Bible can be used to establish the correct interpretation of any other book of the Bible. Scripture interprets Scripture.
16. The less clear passages of Scripture must be interpreted in light of the clearer passages. Scripture interprets Scripture.
17. Every doctrine of Holy Scripture is set forth at some place, very clearly, in non-figurative terms, as the main theme of a discourse.
18. No assertion of Scripture can conflict with any other assertion of Scripture.
19. Rightly to understand and interpret the Scriptures, it is necessary to distinguish between Law and Gospel elements in the text.
20. Salvation through Christ is the theme of Scripture as a whole and its purpose is to make men wise to that salvation, and the interpretation of every word and assertion of Scripture must be in agreement with salvation through Christ.

Principles for Interpreting the Bible



What does the passage say?
What did it mean?
What does it mean?
How does it apply to me?



What about reason?
What about emotions?
What about new revelations?
... decrees? ... councils?

+++ Grammatical Principles +++

principles dealing with the study of words
(origins, use, word order, linguistics, etc.)

1. Semantic

We must assume that the author used a word in its most common meaning unless it can be proven otherwise.

2. Grammar

The meaning of any word must agree with the use of the language in which it was originally written.

3. Context

The understanding of any word must agree with the words before and after the word.

+++ Historical Principles +++

principles dealing with history
(culture, society, etc.)

4. The correct understanding of a word or phrase is the one intended by the author.

5. The correct understanding of a word or phrase is the sense communicated by the author to the original readers.

6. The understanding of a word is partially determined by an understanding of the author, the original audience, and the history of the time.

7. The understanding of a word or phrase, unless it can be proven otherwise, must agree with the purpose of the book of the Bible.

8. Every word or phrase in the Bible can have only one intended meaning. (This is a basic law of human communication, without which intelligent communication would be impossible.)

9. One composition by a certain author can be used to establish the correct interpretation of any other composition by the same author, unless it can be proven otherwise.

10. Any assertion is to be interpreted, if possible, so as not to conflict with any other assertion by the same author.