

How to Interpret the Bible

Most Important Verse on Interpreting the Bible

2 Timothy 2:15, 1 Corinthians 10:32, 1 Corinthians 2:13, John 6:63, Isaiah 28:9-13

(1) Compare scripture with scripture

(2) then rightly divide it

* take the scriptures “as it is written” (literally) unless it is impossible to do so

* always be mindful of the context

Literal or Allegorical?

Why people allegorize the Bible?

- You can make up anything you want and make God say and not say anything you desire
- They don't like what it says
- They don't believe it
- If you take it literally there are “contradictions”

Why we should take it literally?

- As it is written (appears 42 times)
- the Prophets (Daniel 9:1-2, Jeremiah 25:11), Apostles (Acts 2:25-32), and Jesus Christ (Matthew 19:4, Genesis 1:27)
- When the NT quotes the OT it takes it literally 95% of the time, sometimes it will apply the OT passage spiritually

Rightly Dividing the Word:

“Contradictions” in the Bible

- Psalm 51:9-11 (1 Samuel 16:13-14) and John 14:16, 26
- Deuteronomy 6:13, 10:20 and Matthew 5:33-36

Basic Divisions

- Old vs. New Testament (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 8:13)
- Jew, Gentile, Church of God (1 Corinthians 10:32)
- The Different Gospels
- The Different Dispensations
 - 1. Innocence (Genesis 1 - 3)
 - 2. Conscience (Genesis 4 - 8)
 - 3. Human Government (Genesis 9 - 11)
 - 4. Promise (Genesis 12 – Exodus 19)
 - 5. Law (Exodus 20 – Death of Christ)
 - 6. Grace (Resurrection to Rapture)
 - 7. Kingdom (Revelation 19-20)
 - *8. Fullness of Times (Revelation 21-22)
- The Different Covenants
 - Edenic

- Adamic
 - Nohaic
 - Abrahamic
 - Mosaic
 - Davidic
 - New Covenant
- The Different Kingdoms
 - Kingdom of heaven
 - Kingdom of God

The Jew, the Gentile, and the Church:

OT – Jews and Gentiles

NT – Jews, Gentiles, Church

The church did not exist in the OT (Matthew 16:18)

The church starts AFTER the resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13, Colossians 1:18) and ends at the resurrection of the church (1 Thessalonians 4, Revelation 4)

Mistakes Often Made:

- The Church replaced Israel, or the Church is the new Israel
- Applying promises given to Israel to the church (Leviticus 26:3-12, Ephesians 1:3-14)
- Kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God are the same thing
- Applying scripture to the wrong group (Jew, Gentile, Church)