

**HANDLING  
GOD'S WORD  
CORRECTLY**

# PREPARING TO INTERPRET CORRECTLY

- **THE SEED FELL ON 4 TYPES OF SOIL.**  
LUKE 8:4-8
- **CAN WE DETERMINE THE KIND OF SOIL WE ARE?**

What can you do to be  
good, fertile soil?

# PREPARING TO INTERPRET CORRECTLY

- **STRIP AWAY PRESUPPOSITIONS**
  - *EVERYONE* HAS A UNIQUE, PERSONAL VALUE SYSTEM
  - HUMAN TRADITIONS CAN BE A STRONG INFLUENCE
  - PERSONAL EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE COLOR OUR UNDERSTANDING
  - FAMILY BELIEFS CAN BE A STRONG BARRIER
  - THIS PROBLEM IS NOT UNIQUE TO ANY GROUP

# PREPARING TO INTERPRET CORRECTLY

“A dogmatic framework is built of materials provided in scripture, and of logical deduction from the Biblical data.”

**ROBERTSON MCQUILKIN**

*UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING THE BIBLE*

“A person frankly acknowledges not only his presuppositions but his entire system. Then on the basis of that system he seeks to understand scripture. Today we have the New Hermeneutic, the Calvinistic hermeneutic, the dispensational hermeneutic, and many others.”

# PREPARING TO INTERPRET CORRECTLY

- **AVOID DOGMATISM**

“In the middle ages, many, even of the clergy, lived in profound ignorance of the Bible... It became an established principle that the interpretation of the Bible had to adapt itself to tradition and the doctrine of the Church.”

LOUIS BERKHOF, *PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION*

“Learn first what you should believe and then go to the Bible to find it there.”

HUGO OF ST. VICTOR

QUOTED IN *PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION*

# PREPARING TO INTERPRET CORRECTLY

- **CULTIVATE LOVE OF TRUTH**

- NEVER LIE – EVEN “LITTLE” ONES ARE SIN  
REVELATION 21:8

- AVOID DOGMATISM; KEEP YOUR MIND OPEN

- NEVER TWIST OR FORCE SCRIPTURE

- FORGET POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS CORRECTNESS

- SPEAK TRUTH IN LOVE EPH 4:15; 2 THESS 2:8-12

- **BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF**

- ROOT OUT INTELLECTUAL DISHONESTY

- WE MUST BE OPEN AND WILLING TO SHED LONG HELD BELIEFS IF SHOWN WE ARE WRONG.

# VIEWING THE WHOLE OF IT

- **OVERALL BIBLE VIEW IS IMPORTANT**
- **LEARNING THE CONTEXT**
  - **WHAT IS CONTEXT?**
  - **A TEXT WITHOUT A *CONTEXT* IS JUST A *PRETEXT***
  - **THE FUNNEL APPROACH TO LEARNING**
- **THE BROAD AND THE IMMEDIATE CONTEXT**
- **AN HISTORICAL TIMELINE IS A VALUABLE AID**
- **CHRONOLOGY OF BOOKS AND EVENTS**

# PREPARING TO INTERPRET CORRECTLY

- REMEMBER THE **CONTEXT**
- CONSIDER **WHO IS SPEAKING**
- IDENTIFY **TO WHOM IT WAS WRITTEN**
- ANALYZE **THE CIRCUMSTANCES**
- UNDERSTAND **THE WRITER'S PURPOSE**
- **PRAY** ABOUT THE MEANING
- **MEDITATE** ON THE MEANING

# INTERPRETING CORRECTLY

- **MAKE NO MISTAKE! *WE MUST* INTERPRET!**
- **LET THE AUTHOR EXPLAIN HIS MEANING**
- **LET SCRIPTURE EXPLAIN SCRIPTURE**
- **IMPORTANT STEPS TO TAKE**
  - **LOOK FOR FAULTY WORD MEANINGS**
  - **COLLECT EVERY SCRIPTURE ON THE SUBJECT**
  - **CLARIFY UNCLEAR GRAMMAR**
  - **ISOLATE NON-CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS**

# IMPORTANT RULES TO REMEMBER

- **OBSERVE THE LAW OF EXCLUSION**
  - WHEN AUTHORITY INCLUDES WHO SHOULD DO SOMETHING AND HOW TO DO IT, *ALL OTHER INDIVIDUALS AND WAYS ARE EXCLUDED.*
- **ASK IF GENERIC OR SPECIFIC AUTHORITY**
  - AUTHORITY TO SING ALLOWS A *SPECIFIC TYPE OF MUSIC* AND IS NOT *GENERIC AUTHORITY FOR ANY KIND OF MUSIC.*
- **LISTEN TO SCRIPTURE'S SILENCE**
  - “WHATEVER YOU DO IN WORD OR DEED, DO ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS.”  
**COLOSSIANS 3:17**

# **INTERPRETING CORRECTLY**

- **MORE RULES TO FOLLOW:**
  - **AVOID DOGMATISM**
  - **BASE NO CONCLUSION ON AMBIGUOUS TEXT**
  - **BASE NO CONCLUSIONS ON FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**
  - **AVOID SPIRITUALIZING EVERYTHING**
- **DOES ALL SCRIPTURE SUPPORT YOUR CONCLUSION?**

# INTERPRETING CORRECTLY

Make no mistake!

We must interpret.

Let us always do it:

Carefully

Intelligently

Humbly