



Lesson 4: The Fundamentals

Learning how to understand the Bible is a life long journey, so don't get discouraged when you cannot get as much out of the passage as someone else. The most important thing is that you have started the journey for yourself.

If you wish to know God, you must know His Word. If you wish to perceive His power, you must see how He works by His Word. If you wish to know His purpose before it comes to pass, you can only discover it by His Word. Unknown

Why do you think there are so many different approaches and understandings of the Bible?

2 Timothy 2:15 - The right approach....

The _____ approach

The Golden rule of Interpretation: Dr. David Cooper

When the plain sense of scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense, but take every word at its primary literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context clearly indicate otherwise.

The Importance of a Literal Approach to the Scriptures:

1. Jesus, when interpreting and applying the Old Testament historical narratives (stories) did so from a straightforward record of fact. (Matthew 12:40)
2. To approach scripture from any other way puts man in charge of the interpretation instead of God.

The Literal Approach Defined:

To explain the _____ of the speaker or writer according to the _____ and proper usage of words and language.

Three Keys Questions to approaching any text of the Bible:

3. **What does it say?** _____

Scripture knowledge is the candle without which faith cannot see to do its work. Anonymous

- C. Identifying what kind of _____ it is

- A. Study how the words fit _____
 - a. Key words
 - b. Cause & Effect
 - c. Commands & Link Words
 - d. The 5 W's

- B. _____ - What is the theme of the passage?

1. **What did the author mean?** _____
 - A. _____ Background
 - B. Word _____
 - C. Other _____ on this subject
 - D. How does it fit in with the rest of _____

2. **How do I use this?** _____

The scriptures were not given to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives. D.L. Moody

- A. Can I directly apply this to me?
- B. Normative _____

Key Principle: Only _____ correct interpretation but _____ applications.

A text cannot mean what it never meant.

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