

Mount Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Personal Bible Study

Lesson 3 - Interpretation

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Interpretation is when we find out what did God mean by what he said.

There is ONLY ONE interpretation. There can be many applications. The text has only one meaning, but that meaning could be applied many ways.

In order to have correct interpretation, you must have context. Context comes from a complete thought. It is impossible to get the context by only reading in the middle of a complete thought. In order to get the complete thought is necessary the entire paragraph. It can be necessary to have to read the entire chapter, a few chapters before it, or even the entire book.

Isolation- when we fail to interpret a single scripture in light of its context. We isolate the scripture from its immediate literary surroundings. Matt. 18:20,

Prooftexting- stringing together an inappropriate or inadequate series of Bible verses to prove our theology. Isaiah 53:5, 1 Sam. 20:41 (Mark 14:44-45)

We must be careful that we are not adding to the Word of God, this is called eisegesis. Eisegesis is one adding their own thought or idea to the text. We cannot make the text say what we want it to say. We must practice exegesis. Exegesis means to draw out. We must only draw from what is in the text and not add to it.

Spiritualizing- when we read a spiritual or historical truth into a text instead of pulling out the truth from the text. Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Put it to Work:

2 Chron. 7:14

Philippians 4:13

Questions

1. What is interpretation?
2. There is more than one interpretation. True or False?
3. What must you read in order to get the context of a text?
4. What is eisegesis?
5. What is exegesis?
6. What is isolation?
7. What is spiritualizing?
8. What is the meaning of Isaiah 53:5?
9. What is the meaning of Philippians 4:13?