



# THEOLOGY ESSENTIALS



“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers, but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.”

~ Psalm 1:1-3 ~





KNOWING

SCRIPTURE



THEOLOGY ESSENTIALS





# Practical Rules for Bible Interpretation (Part 1)

## **5 (of 11) Practical Rules for Interpretation**



# Practical Rules for Bible Interpretation (Part 1)

- Basic and necessary rules:
  1. **Read the Bible like any other book**  
Apply *sensus literalis* → Still pray and seek illumination
  2. **Read the Bible “existentially”**  
Get personally involved  
\*\*\* Luther’s quote, p. 75



# Practical Rules for Bible Interpretation (Part 1)

## 3. Interpret Historic Narratives By the Didactic

Epistles (didactic) interpret the Gospels

Recognizes the role of the Apostles

## 4. Interpret the Implicit by the Explicit

\*When implicit contradicts explicit, reject implicit

\*Too much can be read into the text (implications)

Calvinist versus Armenian debate example



# Practical Rules for Bible Interpretation (Part 1)

## 5. Determine Carefully the Meaning of Words

Words mean things

**Etymology:** meaning changes throughout history

Some words have multiple meanings

Be careful to not read entire doctrines into a word





# Practical Rules for Bible Interpretation (Part 2)

## 6 (of 11) Practical Rules for Interpretation





# Practical Rules for Bible Interpretation (Part 2)

## 6. Note the presence of Parallelisms

Characteristic of Hebrew literature

Common in Ancient Near Eastern languages

Usage of **Meter**

**Synonymous** Parallelism

**Antithetic** Parallelism

**Synthetic** Parallelism

\*Brings clarity, depth of insight



# Practical Rules for Bible Interpretation (Part 2)

7. Note the Difference Between Proverb and Law  
Proverbs — express practical truism, reflect principles of wisdom for godly living, do not reflect moral law in every life situation

Different forms of law

**Apodeictic** — express absolutes

**Caustic** — “if... then...”





# Practical Rules for Bible Interpretation (Part 2)

## 8. Observe the Difference Between the Spirit and the Letter of the Law

Law has wider application than its letter

Murder — violate letter, Hate — violate spirit

Sin is sin, yet some sins are worse than others and have difference consequences



# Practical Rules for Bible Interpretation (Part 2)

## 9. Be Careful with Parables

Were parables meant to enlighten or obscure?

Remember that parables were given before the cross and without the NT — helps aid in interrupting parables

**\*Most will have one central point**





# Practical Rules for Bible Interpretation (Part 2)

## 10. Be Careful with Predictive Prophecy

### 2 Extremes:

Higher Critical Method — human author & reason  
Bald Literalism (plain without any figuratives)

Pay attention to how NT handles OT prophecy



# Practical Rules for Bible Interpretation (Part 2)

## 11. Interpret the Bible with a Spirit a Humility

At some points we could be mistaken

Be teachable

**Luther:** “The Holy Scriptures require a humble reader who shows reverence and fear toward the Word of God and constantly says, ‘Teach me, teach me, teach me!’”





# Chapter 4 - Practical Rules for Bible Interpretation (Part 2)

1689

Of the Holy Scriptures  
Chapter 1



# Chapter 4 - Practical Rules for Bible Interpretation (Part 2)

***Questions ???***