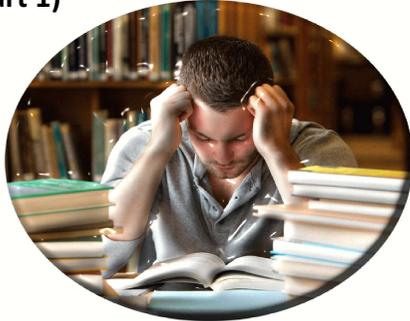


# The Making of Disciples

## Lesson 10

### Rules for Interpretation (Part 1)



#### Textbooks:

- 1 The Word of God - the Bible
- 2 *The Doctrine of Interpretation* by Arthur W. Pink.

#### Tools:

- Bible Software such as, E-Sword, Biblehub, etc.
- Notebook and something to write with.

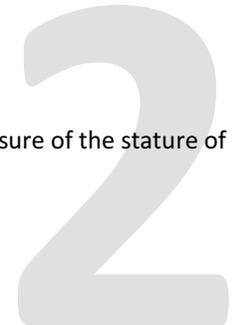
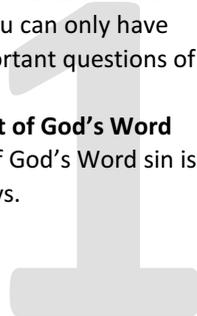
#### Why Bible Study Is Necessary

- 1 **This is God's Word – not the word of men.** (John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Thess 2:13; Hebrews 4:12) It is to be taken more serious than any other document. God has commanded that we study it.
- 2 **The only way to know God is to study what He has revealed about Himself.** Without serious study of God's Word you can only have an "opinion" about who God is and all other important questions of life.
- 3 **The only way to know what sin is is to be a student of God's Word and what He says sin is.** Without serious study of God's Word sin is what people say it is not necessarily what God says.

- 4 **It is an ancient document.** It is a document that spans 1,500 years. It is a document written in different cultures, different political, economical, and spiritual situations. It is a document written by about 40 different authors from different backgrounds. It is a document written in different genre: history, poetry, wisdom, narrative, epistles, prophecy, and apocalyptic literature. One **cannot** understand God's Word by reading it through 21<sup>st</sup> Century "glasses" or understanding. The Bible must be understood in the way it was communicated in the culture and age that it was delivered.
- 5 **It is translated document.** It was not written in English!! ALL translated works lose something in translation. Definition of words must be in accordance with what was its definition when it was written.
- 6 **It can only be understood by the help of God's Spirit.** (1 Cor 2:14)
- 7 **It is written with grammar.** Nouns, verbs, pronouns, preposition, conjunctions, etc. must be carefully studied.
- 8 **Words have definitions.** Definitions change over time. Definitions of a word may have different meanings in different cultures. The Word of God must be study with the definitions first used when the Word of God was recorded.
- 9 **Because there has been and is so much deception/false doctrine.** Christ and His New Testament writers warn us of **many** false teachers and false teachings. Therefore, a disciple of Christ will study to make sure what he/she believes is in fact true. (Matthew 24:4, 5, 11, 24; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 4:2; Romans 16:18; Colossians 2:4, 8; 1 Timothy 1:4-7; 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 1 John 2:18; 4:1; 2 John 7-11; Jude 4; Revelation 2:2)
- 10 **NONE OF US KNOWS what we OUGHT to know.** (1 Corinthians 8:2)
  - "ought" -
    - Necessary, necessity, must
  - Proverbs 26:12

#### What Is the Standard of our Learning?

- (2 Timothy 2:15) APPROVED BY GOD.
- (Ephesians 4:11-16) "to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the **fullness** of Christ".



## Why Rules Are Needed?

- ① If we are to walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, using every Word of God to light our path, understanding the will of God then we need to RIGHTLY DIVIDE the Word of God.  
(Ephesians 5:15-17; Psalm 119:105; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4; 2 Timothy 2:15)
- ② We are to test everything we hear and not just believe what we hear from modern day pulpits, podcasts, etc.  
(1 Thessalonians 5:21; Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:1; Isaiah 8:20; Mark 4:24; Luke 8:18; Matthew 16:6, 11-12)
- ③ For two thousand years the Word of God has been “handled deceitfully”.  
(2 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Corinthians 2:17; Ephesians 4:11-14)
- ④ We are warned over and over in the Old and New Testaments of beware of being deceived by false teachers.  
(Jeremiah 29:8; Matthew 7:15; 24:4-5, 11, 24; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 2:8; Philippians 3:2; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 3:17)
- ⑤ The Word of God must be **heard** AND **understood**. The mind must be engaged in our hearing and reading.  
(Romans 10:13; Matthew 13:19, 23)
- ⑥ There are **seemingly contradictions** in the Word of God that a disciple needs to diligently discern.  
→ For example: Genesis 22:1-2 and James 1:13
  - ▶ The word *tempt* had a primary and a secondary meaning:
    - ① “to make trial of , to prove, to test”
    - ② “to allure, seduce, or solicit to evil”
  - ▶ Every trial is a temptation. They **serve** to make “manifest the prevailing disposition of the heart - whether holy or unholy”
  - ▶ Trials and temptations are “means of mortifying our lusts, tests of our obedience, opportunities to prove the sufficiency of God’s grace.”→ For example: Proverbs 15:29 with Acts 17:27
- ⑦ Many are misled by the mere sound of words rather than the sense of words.  
→ For examples: Matthew 26:26; Revelation 1:20  
→ The dangers of using indefinite terms with unlimited meaning.
  - ▶ Hebrews 2:9-10; Luke 16:16; Romans 12:3; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 1 Timothy 2:4, 6; Luke 3:15; John 3:26; Acts 22:15.

- ⑧ The need of inserting of an explanatory word is some passages.
  - For example: Habakkuk 1:13 with Proverbs 15:3
  - Romans 9:19 with 12:47
- ⑨ Understanding the literal from the actual meaning. The Bible means what it says but interpretation is needed to understand what the Bible means with the words that God uses.
  - For example: Hebrews 13:8
- ⑩ Some things, not all things, are hard to understand.
  - Read 2 Peter 3:15-16
  - There is *milk* for the babe in Christ and there is *strong meat* for the growing disciple of Christ. (Hebrews 5:11-14)

## What Is Needed

- ① To understand the Word of God one must first be “born-again.” A person with the Holy Spirit in them **cannot** understand. (John 3:1-8; James 1:18; 2 Corinthians 2:14)
- ② Led by, taught by, guided by the Holy Spirit. Read carefully Psalm 119:18, 33, 34.
  - The Psalmist did not complain that God’s word was confusing or difficult to understand.
  - The Psalmist saw himself as the problem!
  - The Psalmist did not ask for new revelations, dreams or visions. He wanted a clearer understanding of what was already revealed.
  - The Psalmist understand that in order to the “wondrous things in the Law” he need divine help.
    - ▶ God is our TEACHER: Isaiah 48:17-18;
    - ★ The Spirit is always in total agreement with *His* Word.
- ③ Impartial spirit - an honest heart (Luke 8:15) One must measure our understand to the standard of God’s Word. (Isaiah 8:20)
- ④ Humble mind - Matthew 11:25; James 4:6
- ⑤ Prayer - Prayer - Prayer - Psalm 119:36, 73, 133.
- ⑥ A holy goal. Studying the Word of God must lead to more than just have knowledge of it. The Word of God is the Will of God for His people. Study must lead to holy living - doing the will of God. (Matthew 7:21; 12:50; James 1:22; 1 John 2:17; Luke 6:46)
- ⑦ DILIGENT WORK - 2 Timothy 2:15

