

Chapter Twelve Workbook:

Rules Of Interpretation -

The Laws of Language

(Part One)

Scripture Memory: Genesis 1:3

3 *Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. (In the Bible the phrases, "God said" occurs 46 times, "the Lord said" occurs 232 times and "God spoke" occurs 12 times.)*

Scripture Review:

- Revelation 22:18 & 19
- II Timothy 3:16
- II Peter 1:21
- Deuteronomy 29:29
- Isaiah 55: 8 & 9
- Hebrews 4:12
- I Thessalonians 4:2

Psalm 19: 7 & 8

Hebrews 9:15

Luke 1:1 – 4

Deuteronomy 29:29

Matthew 13:10 & 11

II Peter 1:20

I Corinthians 4:6

Chapter 12

Basic Rules of Interpreting the Bible

- I. Rule of Language** - The meanings of words in the Bible cannot be avoided or changed to fit our biases, we must come to terms with the meaning of the terms employed by the Holy Spirit.
- A. In Genesis 1:1, does God explain why he chooses to use language to communicate with us?

 - B. Can language exist if words do not have meaning?

 - C. What role do our feelings play in the definition of words?

 - D. Choose the correct statement...

Our feelings create definitions and definitions are subject to our feelings.

Definitions of words may create feelings but are not subject to feelings.

What do the following verses seem to say about God's use of language?

DEU 5:24 "And you said, 'Behold, the Lord our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire; we have seen today that God speaks with man, yet he lives.

JOB 33:14 "Indeed God speaks once, Or twice, yet no one notices it.

What does the repetition of the following phrases teach us about God?

GEN 1:3 Then **God said**, "Let there be light"; and there was light. – 46 x's

GEN 4:6 Then the **Lord said** to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? – 232 x's

GEN 8:15 Then **God spoke** to Noah, saying, - 12 x's

II. Rule of First Meaning - The obvious meaning rather than inferred or symbolic meanings are always embraced unless the passage is presented as symbol, parable or prophetic.

A. Why is the dictionary a valuable tool of Biblical interpretation?

1. What if we don't like the definition of a word in the Bible?

2. What if the definition of a word in the Bible clashes with your convictions?

3. Advancements in Biblical scholarship and translation have made a working knowledge of Greek nice but not absolutely necessary in teaching a Bible study.
4. Few laymen will ever master Greek and Hebrew to the point where they are taken to a level higher than that of existing translations and Bible Language study aids.
5. As a result a good translation coupled with a few excellent Language tools is more than adequate for the lay Bible study leader.
6. Review the following reference works. Underline those which may be needed in your study. Consider moving them to the top of your Birthday and Christmas lists.

**Bible Study Reference Works:
(Recommended in this order..)
New American Standard Bible**

Cruden's Exhaustive Concordance

Oxford American Dictionary or other modern non-agenda dictionary

Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words – W.E. Vine

Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies

Parallel New Testament which includes the New King James translation

The Word Study New Testament and Concordance

Word Pictures In The New Testament – Robertson

Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament – Harris, Archer and Waltke

Word Studies in the New Testament – Vincent

Word Studies in the Greek New Testament – Wuest

Consider your own study and preparation of the Bible. Is it really Bible study or is it finding verses in the Bible which you want to teach or think about? Explain and evaluate in the space below...

- B. The following are passages in the Word of God to which we tend to react emotionally. Read the passage, circle the key words, find one or more times this word is used, write the definition of the word from an English language dictionary, write the definition of the word from a Greek reference work.

Passage: *Ephesians 1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,*

Cross-references:

Word

Same Word – New Passage

Definitions – English dictionary

Word

Definition

Definitions – Greek reference work

Meaning of text:

III. Rule of Clear vs. Obscure - We do not abandon the clear for the obscure. We sometime are left to tell what the verse does not mean on the basis of the clear, without ever fully understanding what it does mean.

Free Will:

REV 3:20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.

VS.

Election:

ACT 4:28 to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur.

ROM 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;

ROM 8:30 and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

1CO 2:7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom, which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

EPH 1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

EPH 1:11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

ACT 10:41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us, who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

COL 3:12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

2TH 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

2TI 2:10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

TIT 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,

IPE 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen

IPE 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

MAT 24:22 "And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short.

MAT 24:24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

MAT 24:31 "And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

MAR 13:20 "And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect whom He chose, He shortened the days.

MAR 13:22 for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order, if possible, to lead the elect astray.

MAR 13:27 "And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth, to the farthest end of heaven.

LUK 18:7 now shall not God bring about justice for His elect, who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?

ROM 8:33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

Using an exhaustive Concordance record the number of times the phrase "Free Will" occurs.

Now record the number of times "Predestined" _____ and "Elect" _____ occurs.

Go over the verses in the preceding page and circle the key word or phrase as it pertains to the doctrine of election.

Now explain the Free Will passage in light of what is revealed in these passages...

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: God Chose To Communicate Through Language

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Genesis 1:3

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Genesis 1:26

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Genesis 1:28 - 30

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: God Chose To Communicate Through Language

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Genesis 2:15 - 17

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Genesis 3:8 1- 17

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 34:1 & 27

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?