

## Five Keys to a Face Value System of Interpretation

( Taken from Robert Van Kampen's Book "The Sign") 2 Tim. 2:14-16

90% Observation 10% Interpretation – Dan Hayden

### **1. Accept the meaning of Scripture in the most normal, natural, customary sense.**

1. 2 Peter 1:20; 2 Corinthians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 3:12-13 - This allows for normal natural customary sense, allowing for figures of speech, like parables, and similes, which are normally explained further in the same passage or elsewhere in Scripture. Gen 3:1 and Rev 12:9
2. This principle has special relevance in the study of prophecy, and in fact finds strong confirmation in the way Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled in the life of Christ. Over 60 distinct facets of Christ's life and ministry were predicted, and all sixty without exception, were literally fulfilled, at face value. Deut. 18:20-22; Micah 5:2; Gen. 49:10; Jer. 23:5; (Some still hidden, but literal.)

### **2. Take Scripture in its context** A text taken out of Context, is no more than a pretext. Love, Judging

1. Truth is understanding the scripture within it's context. Passages come alive when you understand the reason for the book, and the place in the argument that the verse you are looking at is given. (Joke of man opening the bible and looking for guidance, ... "Judas went out and hanged himself... opens a second time, go and do thou likewise...") 2 Co. 1:13 – That was the reason Paul wrote this.
2. Two separate questions: 1.) What does it mean? 2.) How does it apply to me? Principles it teaches...
3. John 6 Feeding of 5000 ties to "I am the bread of Life... It was a sign, before they asked... Why the Disciples in the storm with Christ walking on water, they had hard hearts. They realized Christ was God, worshiped Him, and were ready to listen to the hard teaching on who he was, the theme of John John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God...
4. Check it Historically as well. The scripture was given in a historical context and situation. 1 Co. 11:1-15; Christ at the Temple on Passover...; 1 Tim, John and 1 John all tell us the reason for writing.

### **3. Compare Scripture with Scripture.**

1. Ps. 119:160 (NAS & ESV) The Sum of God's Word is Truth.  $2+3=5$  true versus  $2+3=4$  false
2. A word, phrase, or concept should first be studied in light of its use in the passage being studied and then in light of its use in other passages of Scripture. When a given text is not explicit about a truth, no conclusion should be drawn about that truth until all relevant passages have been studied.
3. Those less clear passages are understood in light of the clearer passages.
4. Rules of Priorities: Teaching trumps Narrative; NT trumps OT; Same author defines words first, then same time frame / Testament, then whole Bible. "Called" Matt. 20:16 & Rom. 8:30
5. ie. Women preachers. Created equal (Genesis) and equal before God (neither man nor female) but 1 Tim. 2:11-14 defines a woman's role, 1 Tim 3:14 tell us that this letter was written to tell us how to behave in the church. Confirmed in 1 Co. 14:34, but with 1 Col. 11:5 allowing for prayer and prophecy, not necessarily in the church, but must be considered. 1 Timothy is clearly the strongest, clearest passage, specifically addressed to behavior in the church, and lists three reasons why. 1. Creation Model, 2. Consequence of sin, 3. God's right to choose. (Leaders: Moses, David, Saul, Levites, Phinios (grandson of Arron – Chooses to have High priest hood passed to him)

### **4. Before truth is realized, all seeming scriptural contradictions must be harmonized.**

1. Contradiction are never acceptable. The importance of the principle can not be overstated. No interpretation is valid that does not genuinely harmonize with all the other passages of Scripture.

### **5. Watch for the Near / Far prophetic applications in Scripture.**

1. In relation to a given prophetic event of issue, careful study of various texts in the Old and New Testaments will reveal that different terminology and styles of the writers will describe the same event or issue with equal and consistent truthfulness, though often not is the same detail of from the same perspective as the other. (First coming of Christ: Ps. 22 by David, Isaiah 53, and Daniel 9:26)
2. Luke 4:18-19 Christ stops in the middle of a prophecy, given first in Isaiah 61:1-2. Clearly the last phrase, "and the day of vengeance of our God;" had not yet come.
3. Watch for prophetic language, key words that indicate the shift. "In that Day.." Day of the Lord, Day of Jacobs Trouble, Wrath of God, sign of the coming of the son of Man. (Matthew 24:29-30 / Joel 2:10 & 31) or Time Stamps like "the sign of the coming of the Son of Man." Joel 3:14-16