

# HERMENEUTICS

## Principles of Biblical Interpretation

Biblical passages must be interpreted according to the intention of the author and in the context in which the statement is made. Interpretation must be distinguished from application. One must be sensitive to what type of literature one is in and how this may or may not apply to a believer in the church age. Interpreting the Bible is sometimes hard work but it's always worth the cost. David reminds us of the value of God's word, "They are of greater value than gold, than even a great amount of pure gold; they bring greater delight than honey, than even the sweetest honey from a honeycomb" (Ps 19:10).

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What types of interpretations have you heard where you questioned the method of interpretation?
2. What would happen to interpretation if the church used reader centered interpretations as opposed to an author centered interpretation?
3. How does the Holy Spirit help us in interpreting the Bible (1 Cor 2)?
4. If the Holy Spirit is guiding us in interpretation, why do godly Christians have differing interpretations on various passages?
5. What is our relationship, if any, to the Old Testament Commandments/Law?
6. Why are only 9 of the 10 commandments repeated in the New Testament? The Sabbath command is the one of the ten commandments that is not there (but is there still a "sabbath principle"?).
7. How does the distinction between the church and Israel affect application of the Old Testament?
8. What does Matthew 7:19 mean? Does this teach that people can lose their salvation? (hint: who is Matthew's audience)
9. How do you know if something is symbolic or not?
10. Why should studying Revelation not be scary for the believer?
11. How is it helpful to notice the changing views from earth to heaven in the book of Revelation?