

In Search of Spiritual Treasure
Lesson #5
“Doctrine of the Bible”
Can We Interpret the Meaning of Scripture?

INTRODUCTION

- A. The science of interpreting scripture is called hermeneutics .
 - B. Interpreting the Bible is not a simple process of reading what has been written.
 - C. We must be careful to reverence the divine character of the Bible. Exodus 3:5.
- I. Interpret the Bible in the light of its historical background.
- A. You cannot apply the scripture to a modern context without first understanding the historical context.
 - B. Some seek to explain difficult passages with an appeal to an accommodation theory.
 - C. There is never any need to culturally adapt the message of scripture so that inerrancy is denied.
- II. Interpret the Bible in light of the author’s purpose and plan .
- A. Every book was written for a purpose .
 - B. That purpose gives direction to the primary interpretation of that book.
- III. Interpret Bible verses in light of their context .
- A. We must follow an author’s thought throughout the passage.
 - B. It is dangerous to build one’s belief system on an isolated verse.
- IV. Interpret the Bible within the author’s meaning of words .
- A. Check on the historical meaning of words.

- B. Learn how the author normally uses the word.
- C. Check on the common use of the word within biblical times.

V. Interpret the Bible according to grammar.

- A. An understanding of the original language is important in interpreting the Word of God.
- B. There are many resources that will aid the reader who does not have an understanding of the languages of the Bible.