

“A Matter of Interpretation”

2 Timothy 2:15

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Introduction:

- A. The Bible is _____ by God and is _____ in all matters the pertain to religion. (2 Tim. 3:16,17)
- B. The task of interpreting the Bible is the work of deciding what the Bible _____ by what it says.
- C. In many ways, the Bible is _____ and _____.
- D. The contention that the biblical message is always simple and clear is not _____. (2 Pet. 3:15-16)
- E. It is the congregation, along with its leaders, that must give _____ for its interpretation of the Scriptures.

I. Two Things With Which We Have to Contend

- A. The _____.
- B. _____.

II. Our Method of Interpretation Must...

- A. ...recognize and focus on _____.
- B. ...take seriously the basic _____ which runs through the Bible.
- C. ...give attention to how this story line incorporates specific _____ and _____ for the church.
- D. ...be sensitive to _____.
- E. ...result in implications not only for the _____ process, but for the _____ of the interpreter. (James 1:22, 25)
- F. Another method for interpretation:
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____
 - 4. _____

III. The Silence of the Scriptures.

- A. Prohibitive Principle: if one or more options out of a category are _____, then silence about all other options in that category _____ them.
- B. Permissive Principle: if a category is left open with nothing _____, then we may _____ any options in that category.

Conclusion:

- A. All concepts and commands in Scripture have _____, but some have a higher _____.
- B. God did not introduce himself by a set of rules, rather he sent his _____.
- C. Interpreting the Bible is not _____ or _____. Approach is seriously and _____ and be ready to _____ it.

Answer Key: Intro. A. inspired, useful. B. means. C. simple, clear. D. biblical. E. account. I.A. Bible. I.B. Ourselves. II.A. God. II.B. story, line. II.C. commands, examples. II.D. historical, context. II.E. intellectual, life. II.F.1. Purpose. II.F.2. Principle. II.F.3. Precedent. II.F.4. Prayer. III.A. specified, excludes. III.B. specified, choose. Concl. A. value, value. B. Son. C. simple, easy, humbly, obey.