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.