Inductive Bible Study – Interpretation (Part 1)

1. Remember that context rules.
   a. Ask yourself
      i. Is my interpretation of a particular section of Scripture consistent with the theme, purpose and structure of the book in which it is found?
      ii. Is my interpretation consistent with other Scriptures about the same subject, or is there a glaring difference?
      iii. Am I considering the historical and cultural context of what is being said?

2. Always seek the full counsel of the Word of God.
   a. Does the verse agree with the consistency of God’s Word?
   b. Knowing God’s Word as a whole will help you better interpret the details.

3. Remember that Scripture will never contradict Scripture.
   a. All Scripture is inspired by God, it is God-breathed.
   b. If you see an apparent contradiction, your interpretation of at least one passage is incomplete or wrong.
   c. Humility

4. Do not base your doctrine on an obscure passage or Scripture.
   a. Your basic set of beliefs (Doctrine) should be based on clear and repeated teachings, not on meanings that are not easily understood.

5. Interpret Scripture literally
   a. Take the Word of God at face value.
   b. Don’t make more out of it than what is actually there.
   c. Recognize figure of speech and literary style and interpret accordingly.

   a. Look to see what the author had in mind when he wrote it.

7. Check your conclusions using a reliable commentary.
   a. Be very wary if in your study you find something that no one else has ever seen before. God probably would not blind godly men of truth for almost 2000 years and suddenly reveal it to you.

Word Study

- An exhaustive Concordance
- An Expository Dictionary

Cross-references

1. Lookup all the cross references
   a. From your bible
   b. Concordance

2. Study the context of each reference and determine the context

3. Make notes of those verses that share the same context

Look up the verse in another translation