

## UNITY OF BIBLICAL MESSAGE

Parallel passages – 2 or more passages that report the same event or teaching

By the same author

By different authors

Similar thought and ideas

Contrasting thoughts or ideas

## COHERENCE OF REVEALED TRUTH

Examine & Analyze each passage carefully to determine the author's meaning

- The clear passage is preferred above the obscure
- Greater weight is to be given to teaching often repeated
- Direct, literal teaching should be given preference
- Later take precedence over earlier revelation in building doctrine
- Build doctrine solely from the Bible
- Do NOT build on inference or tradition or extra-biblical sources
- Bible doctrine should reflect Bible emphases

## APPLICATION

Every teaching of Scripture is to be received universally, unless the Bible itself limits the audience, either in the context of the passage itself or in other Biblical teaching.

- Who said it?
- For whom was it intended?
- What did he/she say?
- What response does God desire?
- What did he/she mean?
- God desires the response of faith and obedience to both the direct teachings and the principles of Scripture.

## RESOURCES

Bible encyclopedias, dictionaries, concordance, atlas, word study guides

Bible commentaries (be careful here, last resort)

Systematic Theologies

Internet sites

## HISTORICAL - GRAMMATICAL METHOD

**CONTEXT IS KING**  
**EVERY CONTEXT HAS A "CONTEXT"**  
**SEEK THE SINGLE INTENDED MEANING OF THE AUTHOR**

**DETERMINE THE PURPOSE/PLAN OF THE BOOK**

**DETERMINE THE IMMEDIATE CONTEXT**

**DETERMINE THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Personal situation of the author

Historical references in the Bible

Social/Religious customs

**DETERMINE THE GRAMMATICAL & LITERARY CONTEXT**

**THOUGHT STRUCTURE**

What or who is the main subject of the thought?

What action does the subject do?

What or who is the object of the action?

**GRAMMAR**

What are the relationships among the various parts of thought?

What are the verb tenses, how do they affect the meaning?

**WORD STUDY**

Identify the author's specific meaning and intent

- Immediate context
- Other occurrences with the book
- Occurrences in other writings by the same author
- Usage of the word by other authors, nuances of meaning
- Old Testament root concept of New Testament words
- Historical root meanings found in lexicons and commentaries
- Synonyms/antonyms that shed light on meaning

Define words as concisely as possible

- set to the meaning of that passage
- in the context of the whole range of meaning of the word

Note all devotional thoughts & applications derived

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE – words with meaning other than the common and/or literal sense

- If the statement would be irrational, unreasonable, or absurd if taken literally, presume it's a figure of speech
- Author's indication is figurative in context, though may be literal in isolation
- Contradiction with clearer/more enduring emphasis of Scripture
- Viewpoint of the author/recipients, NOT our own perceptions

Interpretation

Figures of Comparison often require special guidelines

Important to distinguish between figures of comparison and association

Examine figures of illusion

FIGURES OF COMPARISON

Symbol – something taken to represent another thing, normally represents something different in essence from itself, is timeless, thing symbolized may vary with single symbol, usually a single parallel between symbol & object symbolized

Types – explicitly divinely planned prophecy, may be different in essence from the thing typified, points to the future, one particular fulfillment, parallels points of the antitype

Simile – comparison between unlike objects

Metaphor – comparison implied

Representation – one thing to represent something else

FIGURES OF ASSOCIATION

Metonymy - one object/concept is used for that of another to which it is related

Synecdoche - part of something is spoken of as it is were the whole thing; or the whole thing may stand for only part of it.

FIGURES OF HUMANIZATION

Anthropomorphism – ascribing human characteristics to God

Personification – ascribing human characteristics to an object

FIGURES OF ILLUSION

Irony – expression to mean opposite of what is meant

Hyperbole – exaggeration for the sake of emphasis

Questions intended to affirm the truth

Idiomatic expressions

Omissions, Riddles, Understatement (euphemism), Fables

PARABLE - a true-to-life story designed to teach a truth or answer a question

Identify the historic occasion that led to the parable being told

Identify any direct application given in the text

Identify any direct explanation of meaning (controlling factor)

Identify the central points of emphasis, What is the point of the parable?

Identify the irrelevant details

Identify the relevant details, relevant details reinforce the central theme.

Identify parallel and contrasting passages for comparison

HEBREW POETRY – Redundancy in Hebrew poetry is cultivated, correspondence in thought between lines and/or sections

Synonymous Parallelism – idea expressed a second or third time

Synthetic Parallelism – poet adds to the original concept

Antithetic Parallelism – point contrasts one idea with another

BIBLICAL PROPHECY

Multiple reference

- Same prediction, refers to more than one fulfillment
- Partial fulfillment
- Looking forward to final fulfillment

Split reference

- Reference to one future event and to a later second event

Key to understanding Biblical Prophecy is to understand the Old Testament Prophets and pay close attention to the descriptions of the prophecies.