

III. THE PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE INTERPRETATION
(2:15a-d)

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”

Deuteronomy 29:29

“15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”

II Peter 3:15-18

- A. Literal principle
- B. Illumination principle
- C. Grammatical principle
- D. Historical principle
- E. Text principle

ARE YOU GROWING THROUGH THE BIBLE?

“Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart;” Jeremiah 15:16a

GROWING THROUGH THE BIBLE

Interpretation: How To Discern The Bible

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INTRODUCTION

- A. The normal Christian life is a growing relationship with Jesus. You are to be like Jesus and this means ongoing development. Spiritual growth is not automatic; it requires action. The most important action is growing through the Bible every day.

“as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,”
I Peter 2:2

If you are not growing you are shrinking and if you are shrinking you are sinning. Remember, a dusty Bible leads to a dirty life!!

- B. In this series, you will you will learn how to grow through the Bible and be a “self-feeder” with the Word of God.

Mar 31	Acceleration: The Bible And Spiritual Growth
Apr 7	Inspiration: How We Got The Bible
Apr 14	Perspiration: How To Study The Bible
TODAY	Interpretation: How To Discern The Bible
Apr 28	Transformation: How To Apply The Bible
May 5	Proclamation: How To Share The Bible

- C. **Text:** II Timothy 2:14-18 (Pew Bible/Pg 216/New Test.)

Hermeneutics is the science of Biblical Interpretation.

HOW TO DISCERN THE BIBLE

- I. THE PLAN FOR BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION (2:15e)

You will be able to properly understand the Bible.

To “*rightly divide the word of truth.*” means “to cut straight”. Paul was a tentmaker by trade and he used this type of terminology here.

“So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.”
Acts 18:3

“97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts.”
Psalm 119:97-100

You will be able to properly instruct others in the Bible.

“12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

Hebrews 5:12-14

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” II Timothy 2:2

The Bible should be like a running stream, not a stagnant pool, in your life.

II. THE PRIORITY OF BIBLE INTERPRETATION

(2:14, 16-18)

A. Incorrect interpretation causes doubt (v14)

“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”

Genesis 3:1

“So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.”

Nehemiah 8:8

B. Incorrect interpretation causes disease (2:16-17a)

See Galatians 1:6-12

C. Incorrect interpretation causes damage (2:17b-18)

“18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good

*warfare,
19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith
have suffered shipwreck,*

*20 of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that
they may learn not to blaspheme.”* I Timothy 1:18-20

*“29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in
among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will
rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after
themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did
not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.*

*32 So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace,
which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those
who are sanctified.”* Acts 20:29-32