

Growing in God's Word

Lesson 4: Interpretation, Part I

Interpretation is answering the question, "What does it mean?"

It is not...

I. What is Meaning?

II. General Principles of Interpretation:

- I. Meaning is determined by Context
 - A. Literary context

 - B. Historical context

2. Good observation is the foundation for good interpretation.

3. The plain sense is usually good sense

III. Seven Hazards to Avoid

- A. Misreading the text

- B. Distorting the text

- C. Contradicting the text

D. Subjectivism

E. Relativism

F. Overconfidence

G. Missing Figurative Language

IV. Can there still be disagreement?

V. Barriers to Good Interpretation?

A. Language

B. Culture

C. Literary Genre

D. Communication

E. Some Resources

1. Atlas
2. Bible Dictionary
3. Bible Handbook
4. Commentaries

VI. Conclusions