

Lesson 5 Notes – 01/31/2008

PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION, Part II

We now begin our overview of the “Rules” that support and flesh out the Axioms from Part I. These rules give more specific detail concerning application of the Axioms.

For the sake of brevity, we will only look at a portion of the 50 Rules found in the *Principles of Hermeneutics*. We do that for two immediate reasons:

1. Rules 43 - 50 will be covered in our second textbook, *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*.
2. While all the Rules are important in understanding human communications and the Bible, we have tried to pick out those we will most likely use in the rest of this course.

RULES (Numbered according to our textbook, with page references)

Preliminary Rules

Rule 1: Interpret communications of all kinds by the same general principles. p. 35

Rule 2: Before interpreting a passage, investigate its genuineness. p. 41

Rule 3: A correct text of a passage must be obtained before it is interpreted. p. 45

Rule 4: If a translation be used, it must be an exact equivalent of the original, or the difference must be noted by the interpreter. p. 49

Rule 5: Before interpreting a passage, determine whether it is literal or figurative. p. 51

The General Sense

Rule 8: Let an author's own explanation of his meaning take precedence over any other interpretation. p. 74

Rule 9: The interpretation of a passage must accord with the writer's purpose. p. 79

Rule 11: Interpret so as to make the sense clear. p. 85

Rule 13: An interpretation should conform to known laws, customs, opinions, history, country, biology, circumstances and character of the author at the time. p. 101

Words & Expressions

Rule 16: An expression must be interpreted to suit the context. p. 116

Rule 17: In interpreting, the etymological meaning of a word must give place to the current established usage. p. 119

Rule 22: Carefully note distinctions in synonyms, and, if consistent, give an author credit for using the term most suited to his meaning. p. 131

Parallel Passages

Rule 27: In harmonizing parallels, allow for a different conception and expression of thought by different authors. p. 147

Rule 30: If possible, interpret a quotation as parallel and consistent with the original; but always in harmony with its own setting. p. 155

Figurative Language

Rule 31: The literal or most usual meaning of a word (or passage), if consistent, should be preferred to a figurative or less usual signification. p. 160

Rule 33: In figures of similitude or analogy, very few points of comparison must be expected. p. 166

Rule 36: In the interpretation of figures based on similitude, follow carefully the indications given by the author. p. 173

Effective Bible Study

Instructor: Richard Cravy

Winter Term 2008, Sunset International Bible Institute

© Copyright, 2008 Richard Cravy