

Interpretation Checklist

- Is the speaker inspired?
- Does the audience include me?
- What is the historical setting?
- What is the type of writing?
- What do the words mean in context?
- Is it literal or figurative?

Problems from Inaccurate Interpretation

- Trusting false promises
- False sense of security
- Missing true promises
- Grieving God
- Following the wrong leaders
- Focusing on the wrong stuff

Axioms: Generally Accepted Truths

- Purpose of reading is to understand the intent of the author
- Context determines meaning
- Different writers write differently
- Contradictory understandings cannot both be true

Axioms for Understanding the Bible

- The author intended to be understood by the immediate audience.
- The meaning must be accessible to any accountable person.
- History provides examples, not veiled commands
- The explanation must pass through faith and love or it is legalism.

False Axioms

- The material is too complicated for some to understand.
- Etymology (the root of the word) reveals meaning.
- The actions of the first century church and the examples in the Old Testament must be duplicated by us.

Common Logical Errors

- Proving the opposition wrong makes me right.
- If you believe that, then you must also believe this.
- Defining the minimum requirements.
- My understanding is correct.
- Unity requires sameness.
- God judges groups.