**Principles of Biblical Interpretation**

***As a Protestant I cherish the NT teaching on the priesthood of believers—that each Christian has the right to his own interpretation, but also that each Christian has the responsibility to get it right. ―Daniel Wallace***

The human authors had a specific historical \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. These authors used their own language, writing methods, style of writing and literary form of writing.

The divine authorship of the Bible gives it its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the ultimate source of all interpretation is from God.

***The true meaning of a text resides in the authorial \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the text***.

General Principles of Biblical Interpretation

Principle 1: Interpretation must be based on the author’s intention of meaning and \_\_\_\_ the reader.

Principle 2: Interpretations must be done in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the passage.

Principle 3: Interpret the Bible literally (or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) allowing for normal use of figurative language. Take the \_\_\_\_\_ meaning of the text at face value. When the literal does not make sense you probably have a \_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Principle 4: Use the Bible to help interpret \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Interpret difficult passages with clear ones. This is sometimes called the law of non-contradiction.

Use the New Testament to help interpret the Old Testament. This recognizes the progressive nature of revelation, that is the Bible is giving more revelation on topics over time. But one must start by interpreting the Old Testament text in its context before a New Testament consideration is made.

Principle 5: Interpretation must be distinguished from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Principle 6: Be sensitive to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ between Israel and the church and Old Covenant and New Covenant eras/requirements.

Principle 7: Be sensitive to the \_\_\_\_ of literature you are in. The Bible contains many different types of literature: law, narrative, wisdom, poetry, gospel, parable, epistle, and apocalyptic. Each of these types of literature has specific features that must be considered when interpreting a text.

Let me give you a glimpse into these though:

When interpreting the **Old Testament** be aware of:

Narrative Literature:

Law:

Wisdom Literature:

Poetry:

Interpreting the **New Testament**

Gospels:

Parables.

Acts.

Epistles.

Revelation.

**Conclusion and Summary**

Biblical passages must be interpreted according to the intention of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in which the statement is made.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ must be distinguished from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. One must be sensitive to what type of literature one is in and how this may or may not apply to a believer in the church age.

Interpreting the Bible is sometimes hard work but it’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ worth the cost. David reminds us of the value of God’s word, “They are of greater value than gold, than even a great amount of pure gold; they bring greater delight than honey, than even the sweetest honey from a honeycomb” (Ps 19:10).