

**Chapter Twelve:  
Rules Of Interpretation -  
The Laws of Language  
(Part One)**

## Chapter 12

### Basic Rules of Interpreting the Bible

- I. Rule of Language** - The meanings of words in the Bible cannot be avoided or changed to fit our biases, we must come to terms with the meaning of the terms employed by the Holy Spirit.
- A. God chose to use language without explanation.
  - B. Language without meaning is simply nonsensical phonics.
  - C. As a result, language is not subject to feeling.
  - D. Language may create or cause feelings but feelings cannot effect the meaning of a word.
- DEU 5:24 "And you said, 'Behold, the Lord our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire; we have seen today that God speaks with man, yet he lives.
- JOB 33:14 "Indeed God speaks once, Or twice, yet no one notices it.

GEN 1:3 Then **God said**, "Let there be light"; and there was light. – 46 x's

GEN 4:6 Then the **Lord said** to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? – 232 x's

GEN 8:15 Then **God spoke** to Noah, saying, - 12 x's

- II. Rule of First Meaning** - The obvious meaning rather than inferred or symbolic meanings are always embraced unless the passage is presented as symbol, parable or prophetic.
- A. The number one tool of Biblical interpretation is the dictionary.
    1. Advancements in Biblical scholarship and translation have made a working knowledge of Greek nice but not absolutely necessary in teaching a Bible study.
    2. Few laymen will ever master Greek and Hebrew to the point where they are taken to a level higher than that of existing translations and Bible Language study aids.
    3. As a result a good translation coupled with a few excellent Language tools is more than adequate for the lay Bible study leader.

**Bible Study Reference Works:  
(Recommended in this order..)  
New American Standard Bible**

**Cruden's Exhaustive Concordance**

**Oxford American Dictionary or other modern non-agenda dictionary**

**Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words – W.E. Vine**

**Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies**

**Parallel New Testament which includes the New King James translation**

**The Word Study New Testament and Concordance**

**Word Pictures In The New Testament - Robertson**

**Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words**

**Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament – Harris, Archer and Waltke**

**Word Studies in the New Testament – Vincent**

**Word Studies in the Greek New Testament – Wuest**

- B. As you reflect on these Bible study tools, can you say that you have been studying the Bible or simply finding verses on subject upon which you wish to teach? There is an important difference between the two and both the teacher and the student should early learn to recognize between them.
- C. Submitting our convictions to the Word of God is very important. It is not what we think God has said that is important, but rather what God has said. It is not what we feel God should say that is important, but rather what God has said.
- D. Romans 1:16 speaks of “not being ashamed of the Gospel”. Most interpret this as not being ashamed to speak of Christ but it can also mean not being ashamed of the content of God’s Word. It is important that when God speaks to an area and we are uncomfortable that we immediately repent of our embarrassment on behalf of God. God does not need to be covered for, the Word of God does not need to be cleaned up.
- E. There are many sections of the Bible of which Christians are ashamed – The seven day creation; the New Testament teachings on slavery; the New Testament teachings on a woman’s role in the church and home; passages on beating of children; passages on beating of slaves; many of the audacious miracles (the sun standing still for example). It is important that we establish early in our Bible study, that if we are embarrassed by the content of God’s Word it is a reflection on us and no on God.

**F. Note to teacher: Do the following study from the Workbook and make sure you have conquered your embarrassment of the Bible before continuing on.**

**Passage:** *Ephesians 1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,*

**Cross-references:**

**Word**

**Same Word – New Passage**

**Definitions – English dictionary**

**Word**

**Definition**

**Definitions – Greek reference work**

**Meaning of text:**

**III. Rule of Clear vs. Obscure** - We do not abandon the clear for the obscure. We sometime are left to tell what the verse does not mean on the basis of the clear, without ever fully understanding what it does mean.

**Free Will:**

*REV 3:20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.*

**VS.**

**Election:**

*ACT 4:28 to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur.*

*ROM 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;*

*ROM 8:30 and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*

*1CO 2:7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom, which God predestined before the ages to our glory;*

*EPH 1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,*

*EPH 1:11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,*

*ACT 10:41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us, who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.*

*COL 3:12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;*

*2TH 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.*

*2TI 2:10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.*

*TIT 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,*

*IPE 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen*

*IPE 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

*MAT 24:22 "And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short.*

*MAT 24:24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.*

*MAT 24:31 "And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.*

*MAR 13:20 "And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect whom He chose, He shortened the days.*

*MAR 13:22 for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order, if possible, to lead the elect astray.*

*MAR 13:27 "And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth, to the farthest end of heaven.*

***LUK 18:7 now shall not God bring about justice for His elect, who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?***

***ROM 8:33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;***

Using an exhaustive Concordance record the number of times the phrase "Free Will" occurs.

Now record the number of times "Predestined" \_\_\_\_\_ and "Elect" \_\_\_\_\_ occurs.

Go over the verses in the preceding page and circle the key word or phrase as it pertains to the doctrine of election.

Now explain the Free Will passage in light of what is revealed in these passages...

**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD***JEREMIAH 15:16***THEME: God Chose To Communicate Through Language****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Genesis 1:3****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?  
Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Genesis 1:26****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?  
Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Genesis 1:28 - 30****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?  
Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**



**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**  
***JEREMIAH 15:16***  
**THEME: God Chose To Communicate Through Language**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Genesis 2:15 - 17**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?  
Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Genesis 3:8 1- 17**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?  
Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 34:1 & 27**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?  
Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

