Wednesday

November 18

The Meaning of the Text

All Christians should understand the Bible for themselves. The Bible is clear enough for all people to understand the way of salvation, yet complex enough to consistently challenge the brightest minds. Scripture is an endless treasure of saving knowledge that can never be fully exhausted.

Read Luke 10:25-28. Some people claim that the Bible does not need to be interpreted, BUT NOTICE WHAT JESUS SAYS TO A CERTAIN LAWYER IN LUKE 10:26:

If this is the case, why then did Jesus ask this lawyer, " 'What's written in God's Law? How do you interpret it?' " *(Luke 10:26, Message)***?**

"He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? AND HE ANSWERING SAID, THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL THY MIND; AND THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF. AND HE SAID UNTO HIM, THOU HAST ANSWERED RIGHT: THIS DO, AND THOU SHALT LIVE." Luke 10:26-28 KJV

AND WHY DOES 2PETER 1:20 WARN AGAINST "PRIVATE INTERPRETATIONS"

AND DANIEL 2:45 AFFIRMS THAT THE INTERPRETATION IS SURE, SUGGESTING AGAIN THAT SOME INTERPRETATIONS ARE NOT "SURE"

THERE ARE 3 SIMPLE RULES THAT CAN HELP US WITH BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION:

1. LOCATION - LOOK AT THE IMMEDIATE CONTEXT OF THE TEXT - CHAPTER.

2. LOCATION - LOOK AT THE GREATER CONTEXT OF THE TEXT - BOOK.

3. LOCATION - LOOK AT THE FULL CONTEXT OF THE TEXT - ENTIRE BIBLE.

To grasp the meaning of a text, we should first understand the words used, and then how they are used within the associated literary context and the overall biblical context, and also the historical-cultural setting, at least to whatever degree that we can. Finally, our conclusions should be in full harmony with the wider teachings of Scripture. Comparing parallel scriptures—as is often done in the four Gospels—can enrich our understanding.

3ABN SOD Plug

Compare Matthew 5:43-48 with Luke 6:27-36. How does the context of Matthew 5:43-48 and the parallel text, Luke 6:36, help us better understand the meaning of "perfect" in Matthew 5:48?

NOW LETS ADD THE BOOK OF JOB FOR A WIDER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE BIBLE MEANS BY PERFECTION OF CHARACTER.

JOB 1 AND JOB 42

THEN WE CAN CONFIRM THIS

One of the most important characteristics of a faithful interpreter of Scripture is a combination of thoroughness and humility. Remember, none of us owns truth; we all see through a glass darkly.

We should always strive for sound doctrine *(2 Tim. 4:1-5)*. A crucial principle to follow is to focus on what we do understand, on what is

clear, and to build off of that, which in many cases, over time, will help us understand things that now might not be clear. Short of eternity, there will always be unanswered questions.

DANIEL 11:40-45 IS NOT CLEAR TO MANY AND SOME HAVE COME UP WITH DIVERGENT VIEWS FROM THE OFFICIAL VIEW OF THE CHURCH LIKE - TURKEY - ISLAM -

THE CHURCH POSITION REGARDING DANIEL 11:40-12:3, BASED ON THE BIBLE AND CONFIRMED BY A CAREFUL READING OF THE SOP IS THE PAPACY/US -

THIS INTERPRETATION BUILDS ON THE CRUCIAL PRINCIPLE OF FOCUSING ON WHAT WE DO UNDERSTAND AND IS CLEAR. REVELATION 13 CONFIRMS THIS PROPHETIC TRUTH GIVING US A SURE WORD OF PROPHECY.

Think of a time you didn’t understand something that greatly bothered you, only to get

it explained later. How should that experience help you trust God on the things in His Word that, for now, you still don't understand?

EXPERIENCE AS A NEW SDA - USSR - LEARNED NOT TO LOOK TO WORLD EVENTS TO INTERPRET PROPHECY INSTEAD OF CONFIRMING PROPHECY.

NO LESSON NINE