

Hermeneutics - Chapter 14
General Principles of Interpretation - Rules 4-6

Rule 4 - Interpret personal experience in the light of Scripture and not Scripture in the light of personal experience. (pp 157-160)

Instructional passages generally state that because something is true, a particular thing happened - not the opposite (157)

The events of narrative passages (Acts) are interpreted by doctrinal passages, not the opposite. (158)

Experience attests to the validity of doctrine, but does not formulate doctrine (159)

You learn through experience, but you do not judge the Bible by it. (160)

Rule 5 - Biblical examples are authoritative only when supported by a command. (pp 161-163)

We are obligated to follow Biblical examples only when they illustrate a Biblical command but not when such a command is lacking. (161)

1. *A biblical example can verify what you think the Lord is leading you to do.* (162)

2. *A biblical example can be a rich source of application for your life* (162) However, you cannot apply an application in your own life to other people - for such would be making a biblical example into a command.

Each individual must draw his own application from those biblical examples that are not followed by a command.

The believer is free to do anything that the Bible does not prohibit - i.e. the Bible sets boundaries on what cannot be done, not on what can be done. All things are lawful unless prohibited by a biblical command / precept (163)

Rule 6 - The primary purpose of the Bible is to change our lives, not increase our knowledge (pp 163-167)

The Holy Spirit intended that by reading the Scriptures we will learn and apply (1 Cor. 10:6)

Lessons can be learned either by personal experience, or the experience of others (164)

We must understand before we can apply, but understanding without application does not make a person godly (164)

1. Some passages are not to be applied in the same way they were applied at the time they were written. (165)

2. When you apply a passage it must be in keeping with a correct interpretation (166)