

## Doctrine of Bible

### Biblical Principles of Interpretation

1. The implicit is to be interpreted in light of the explicit. The difficult is to be interpreted in light of that which is plain and clear.
2. Something that is explicit can plainly be understood from the text. Something that is implicit requires what is not clearly stated. The power of deduction must be engaged to determine what is meant.
3. The doctrine of the Trinity is not declared in any one verse, but the Bible does teach that the Father is divine, the Holy Spirit is divine, and Jesus is divine.
4. The problem comes when something is deduced from one passage of Scripture that is in direct conflict with another teaching of Scripture. This must be avoided.
5. There are some broad problems of deducting something from Scripture.
  - A false deduction can lead to reading into a passage something that is not there. The idea that Jesus could pass through a door because His resurrected body was molecularly different is based on a passage in the gospel of John. *John 20:26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.* The impression is given that the door was shut, and Jesus came in anyway. But the text could also teach that the door was shut for fear of the Jews. When Jesus came to His disciples, they were afraid, and so were hiding behind a closed door.
  - A false deduction can lead to sensationalism. For example, it has been argued that male angels have a peculiar proclivity to lust over women's long hair, even to the point of rape. *1 Corinthians 11:10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.* This implication comes from this passage which is united with a story in the book of Genesis. *Genesis 6:1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, 2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.* The question arises as to the meaning of the term, "the sons of God." This passage could imply that the "sons of God" were angels. But the text could also imply that the sons of God were the godly seed of Seth who intermarried with the ungodly seed of Cain, based on the genealogy of Genesis 5.
  - A false deduction can lead to doctrinal error. For example, a question arises. "Does fallen man have within his power the ability to effect his own salvation? Is the will of man in bondage to sin and death, or is the will of man free?"

John 3:16 is a verse used to imply that man does have the moral ability, the innate ability, in and of himself, apart from God, to come to Christ. *John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

***Special Note.***

This text does not say who can believe, or who cannot believe. It just says that if a person believes, they will be saved. It is true that “whosoever believeth” in Christ shall not perish, but who is the person who will believe? There is only one answer to that, and it is found in the words of Jesus.

Only those whom the Father has given to the Son shall believe. *John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.* It is not a necessary inference that anyone can believe, and be saved. It is explicitly taught that those who believe in Christ, shall be saved.

In contrast, John 6:44 explicitly says something about the ability of man to save himself. It cannot be done. *John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.* There is a universal negative. “No man.” There is also the word can, which speaks of ability. “No man has the ability” to come to Christ in and of himself. Something has to happen before a man can come to Jesus. This is taught explicitly.

6. Our implications must always be measured by, and made subordinate, to what the Scriptures explicitly teach.
7. There is another principle in Biblical interpretation. We need to be very careful of words.
8. In Christian theology, the Bible uses words which give special meaning. For example, there is the word, “saved”. This word is used in the past tense, the present tense, and in a host of different ways.
9. This word is used in a doctrinal sense, to speak of eternal salvation. But, it is also used in an earthly sense, to speak of avoiding a catastrophe. Care must be taken to understand the word in context.
10. It is good to have a Bible Dictionary, or a Bible Handbook.
  - Nelson’s Bible Dictionary
  - Unger’s Bible Dictionary
  - Haley’s Bible Handbook
11. Every part of a particular verse in Scripture must be measured, and interpreted, against the other parts of Scripture.