

Principles of Bible Study...

(Just a refresher)



Principles of Bible Study...

(Just a refresher)



What *Really* Divides Churches?

Spoiler: We may mention a few groups by name, solely for the purpose of understanding and communication.



**There are only three issues which
divide churches.**

The Issue of Authority

... one simple answer!

The Issue of Interpretation

... one simple answer!

The Issue of Obedience

... one simple answer!

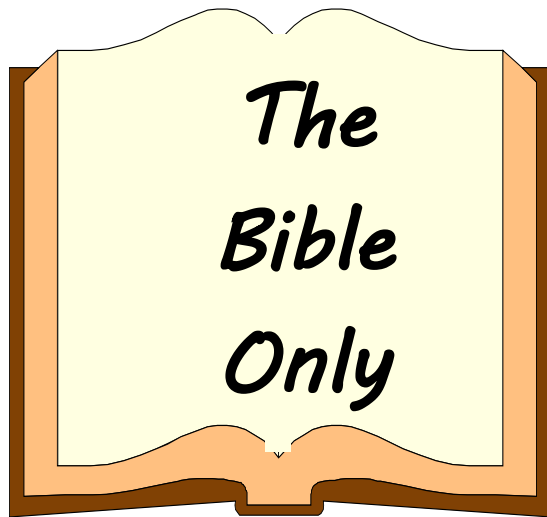
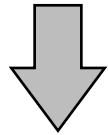


- Principles of Bible Study -

*#1 Always accept
the Bible as your
ONLY authority.*

The Only Source of Authority

**The TRUE Source
of Authority**



**FALSE Sources
of Authority**



- Those who claim their church alone is approved by God.
- Those who claim their leaders have additional truth from God.

The BIBLE is our only Authority

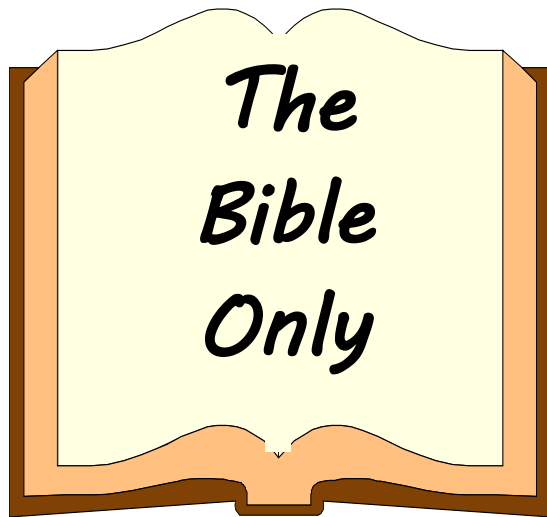
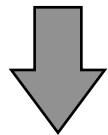
THOSE WHO
CLAIM THEIR
CHURCH HAS
SPECIAL
AUTHORITY
FROM GOD.

**“OUR Church was
chosen by Christ”.**

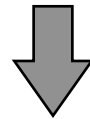
**“God gave OUR
LEADERS more
revelations.”**

The Only Source of Authority

**The TRUE Source
of Authority**



**FALSE Sources
of Authority**



These false claims have the same thing in common - they rob the Bible of its true authority.

What does the Bible say???

The Only Source of Authority

Arguments folks use when claiming their church is the only church...

- ***My church is THE pure church***
- ***...is THE historic church***
- ***...was SPECIALLY chosen by God***
- ***...ONLY has the true gospel***



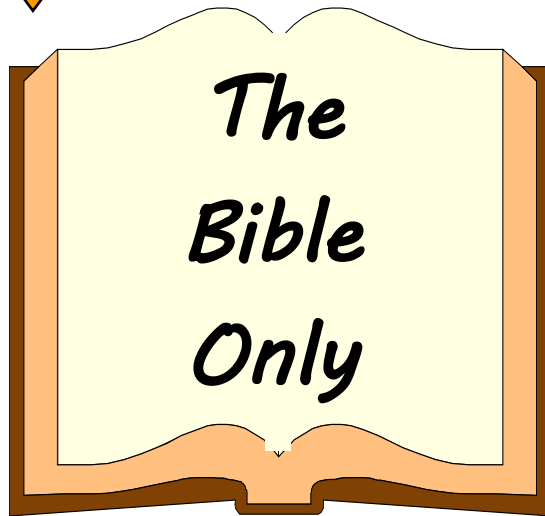
You could not sort the issues out in a lifetime!

The Only Source of Authority

TYPICAL Groups which claim to be the HISTORIC CHURCH

↓
M=Multiple Authorities
S=Successionist

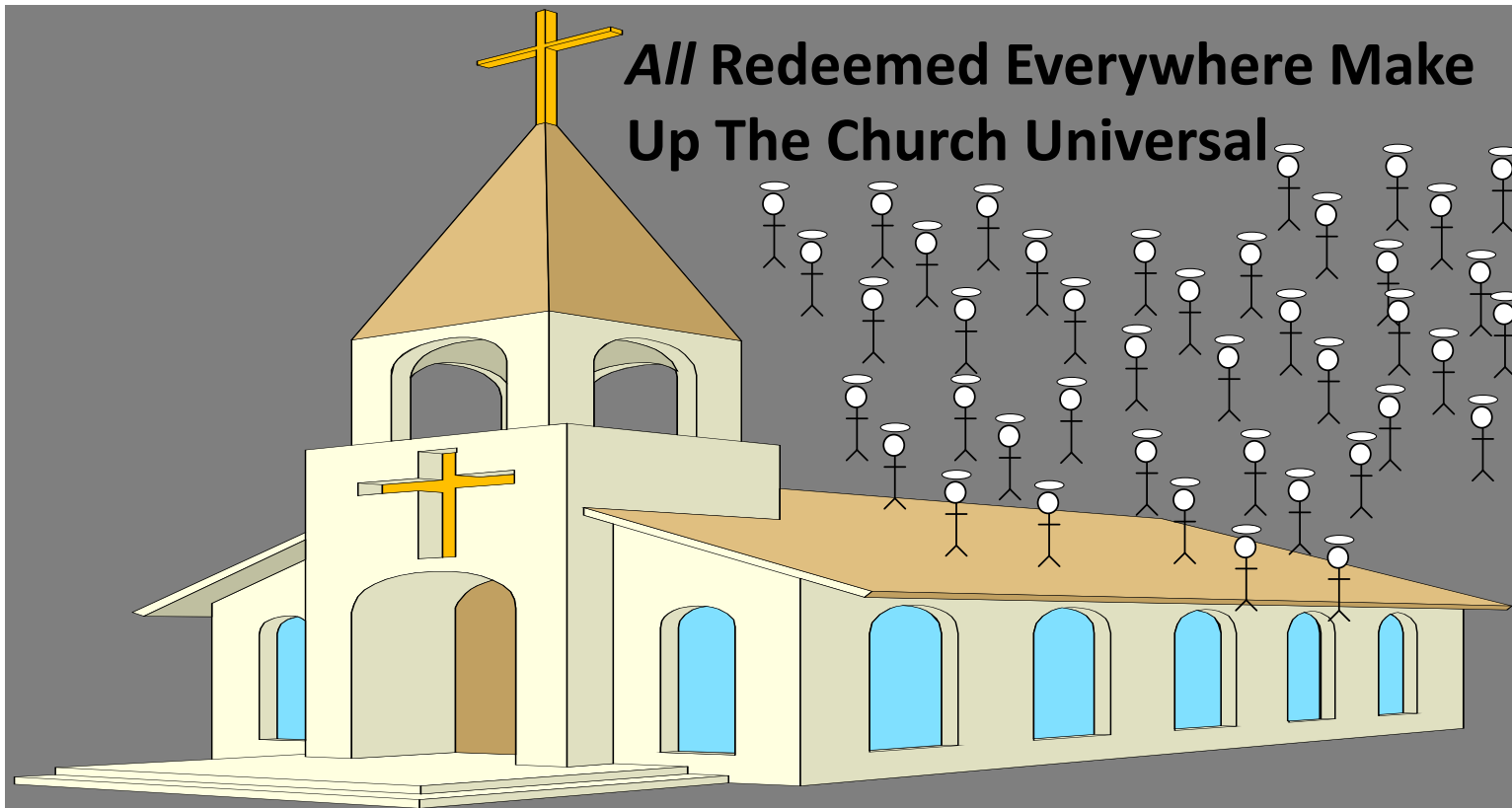
↓
The TRUE Source
of Authority



- > Roman Catholic (M & S)
- > Churches of Christ (S)
- > LDS or Mormon (M & S)
- > Some Baptists (S)

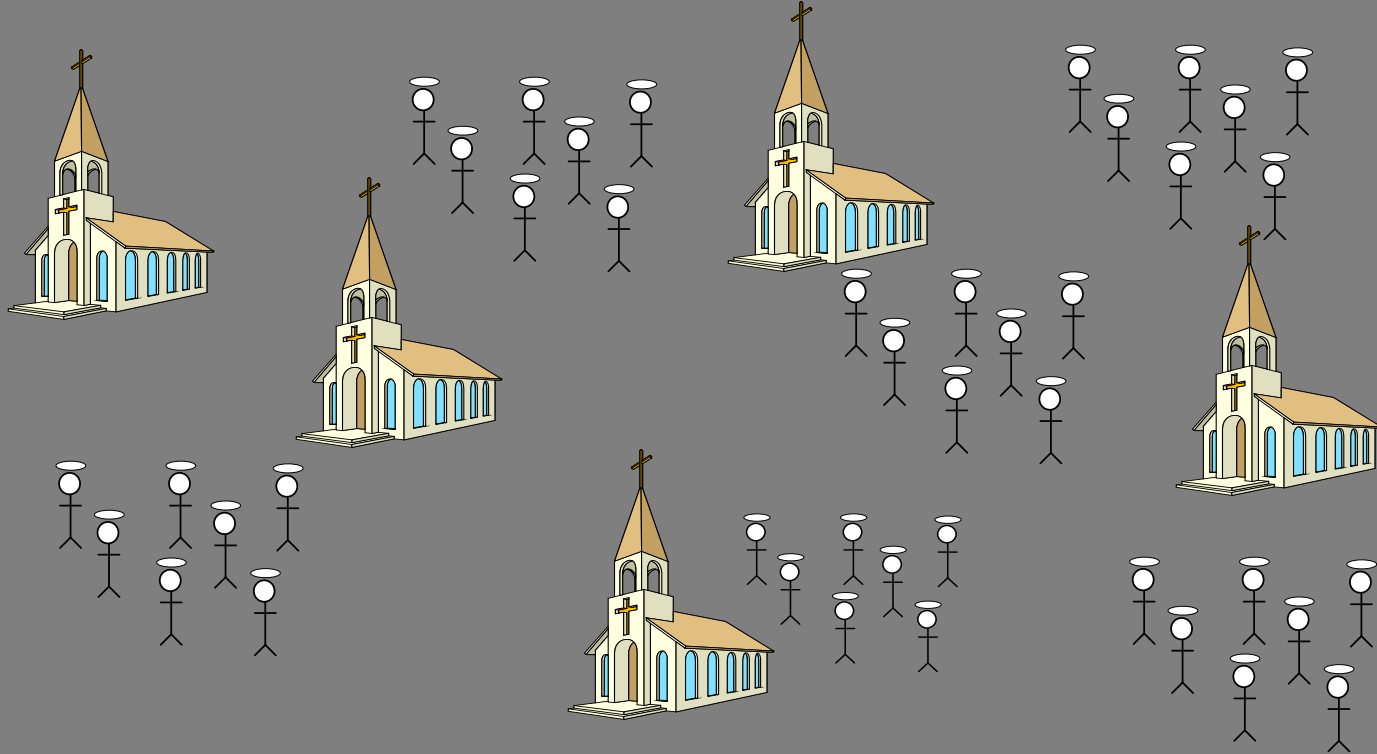
What does the Bible say???

The Biblical Position

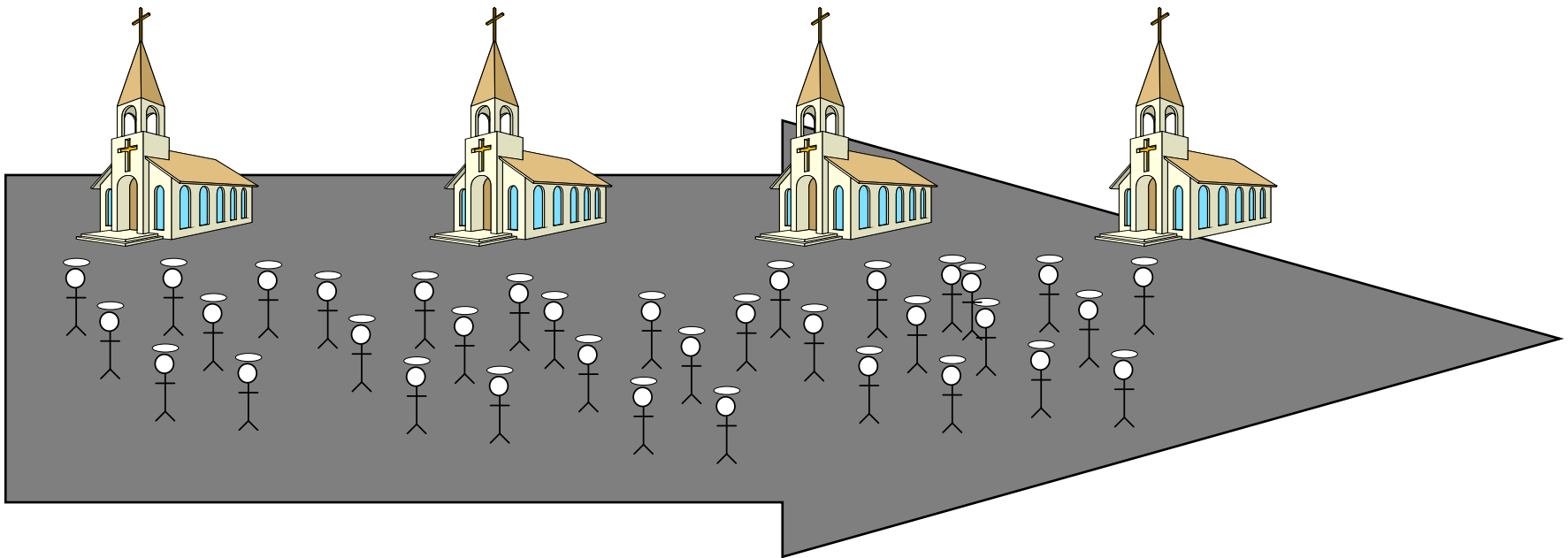


The Biblical Position

Members of Local Assemblies Are Just That & No More



Example: The Successionist Baptist Position



Every member baptized in an unbroken *chain* from John the Baptist and Jesus Christ

The Only Source of Authority

**What happens when
Christians decide their
church is the *only* church?**

** What It Means to Be An “Independent Baptist”*

Bible KJV is preserved, sole authority

Alien immersion is not accepted

Perpetuity of Jesus' church

TTrue, scriptural church is only local church

Imperative of missions belongs to church

Salvation of grace by repentance and faith

Table of the Lord is restricted to members

* Well known tract by I.P. Bert Craft

What Just Happened?

When **any** group teaches that its church ALONE is ordained by Christ it must insist that all other groups must cease from:

***BAPTISM * LORD'S TABLE * EVANGELISM *
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP * and MISSIONARY
ENDEAVOR...***

BECAUSE SUCH A GROUP IS ALIEN AND UNBIBLICAL!

And Just For Starters!

WHEN BAPTIST SUCCESSION IS EMBRACED:

Only these “Independent” Baptists are the **Bride** of Christ.

* Only these Baptists are members of the **Body** of Christ.

(Yikes! Logic requires that such a Baptist also loses these rights and spiritual gifts if his church membership lapses.)

*Where do the Catholics,
Mormons, Churches of Christ,
and “Independent” Baptists Go
Wrong on Succession?*

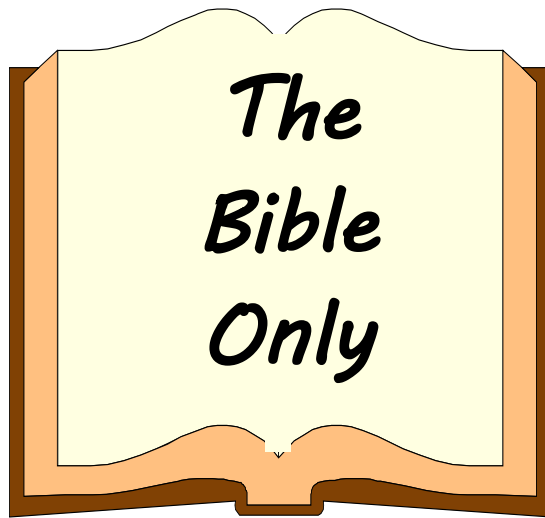
They ALL assume that Jesus Christ gave His Great Commission to His church on earth instead of giving it all members of the body of Christ.

At the Great Commission:

- **No CHURCH is mentioned - only individuals.**
- **Each was personally to pass on ALL of Christ's commands and teachings to other *individuals*.**
- **Local churches are provided by God for the express purpose of training and equipping local believers to carry out their God given tasks as *individual* members of the body of Christ.**

The Only Source of Authority

The TRUE Source
of Authority

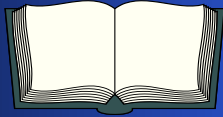


This FALSE successionist claim
USURPS God-given authority to:

Christ - as the head of His body.

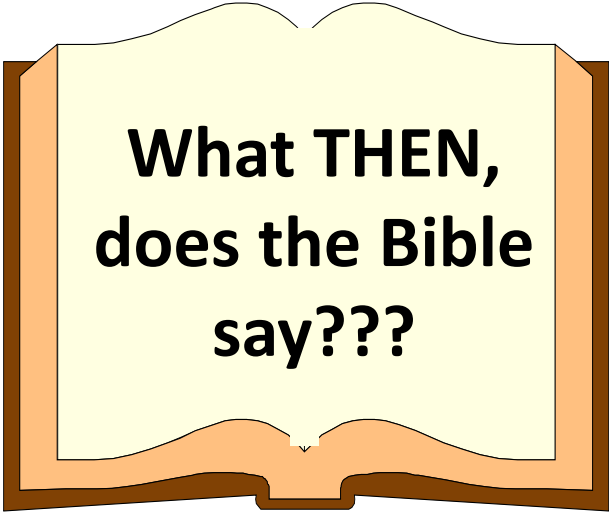
The Believer - of His personal
priesthood

The Bible - of its final say.



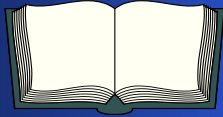
Col 1:18 **And he is the head of the body, the church:** who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [things] he might have the preeminence. (AV)

The Only Source of Authority



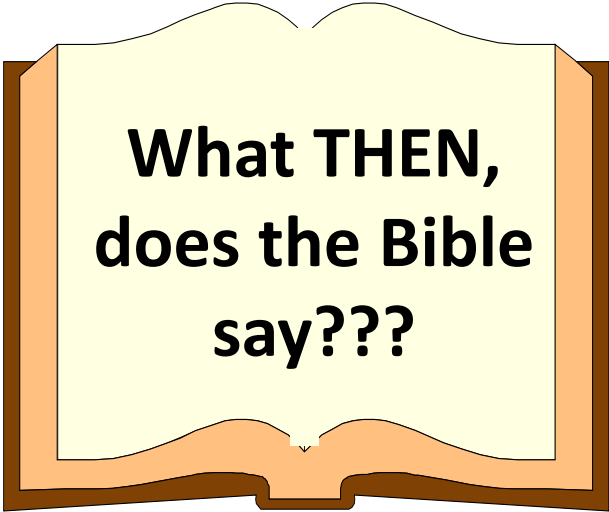
**What THEN,
does the Bible
say???**

- **Jesus Christ alone is the head of His Church - NO CHURCH CAN SAVE YOU!**
- **The terms “church” and “body” are synonymous**



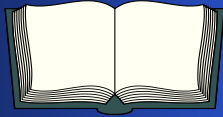
Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. (KJV)

The Only Source of Authority

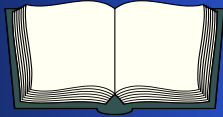


**What THEN,
does the Bible
say???**

- A man becomes a part of Christ's church when he becomes a part of Christ's body.
- A man is placed into the body of Christ when he receives Christ as Saviour



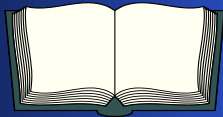
1Co 12:12 For as the body is one,
and hath many members, and all
the members of that one body,
being many, are one body: so
also [is] Christ. (KJV)



1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether [we be] Jews or Gentiles, whether [we be] bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (KJV)

- Principles of Bible Study -

*#1 Always accept
the Bible as your
ONLY authority.*



Mt 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. (KJV)

There Are Only Three Issues Which Divide Churches.

The issue of authority

The issue of interpretation

The issue of obedience



- Principles of Bible Study -

*#2 Always interpret
the Bible literally.*

Anyone Can Understand God's Word!

What
Satan
wants
you to
believe:

- “The Bible is confusing.”
- “No one can be sure what the Bible says.”
- “Only church leaders should interpret the Bible.”

There Are ONLY Two Approaches to Bible Interpretation

**The ONLY
Correct View**

**LITERAL
INTERPRETATION**

**The
INCORRECT
View**

**ALLEGORICAL, or
SELECTIVE
INTERPRETATION**

LITERAL Interpreters Teach:

- “When the plain sense of the Bible makes common sense to seek any other sense is nonsense.”

Alva J. McClain

This quotation is not perfect because common sense is exactly that, but it still gets the point across! God doesn't play cryptic games with us!

LITERAL Interpreters Teach:

- The Bible conveys spiritual truth through literal words with literal meanings.
- When the Bible DOES use figures and metaphors, their meanings can be discovered elsewhere in God's Word.
- NO BIBLE TRUTH IS EVER left to the opinion of the interpreters.

Good Rules for Literal Interpretation:

- **Never “spiritualize” Bible verses**
- **Never “spiritualize” Bible truths**
- **Never confuse God’s program for Israel with God’s program for the church.**

ALLEGORICAL Interpreters Say:

“Spiritual meanings of texts supersede literal meanings” (Some Jews said: Up to seven levels!)

AUGUSTINE’S

PROBLEM:

- **Who determines the meaning?**
Example: leaven in Mat. 13
- This **“redefinition”** of terms leads to conflict & spiritual pride.

Allegorical (Selective) Interpretation

The Sacramento Bee

► NATION

FBI set for finale of Freemen saga

Armored cars, helicopter brought in

Associated Press

JORDAN, Mont. — The FBI brought armored cars and a rescue helicopter to their staging area near the Freemen ranch on Friday, saying they might be needed to help end the standoff with the armed anti-government fugitives.

A source familiar with the FBI's strategy said the highly publicized arrival of the armored vehicles and helicopter was not a sign that authorities plan to move on the Freemen immediately. "They're sending a message that

in open view and agents stripped away the tarps.

The cars had "FBI" painted their sides in large white letters. The olive-drab helicopter was unmarked, and the pilot told reporters it would carry 13 people.

The vehicles were brought in "the event it becomes necessary to conduct emergency rescues and safely occupy portions of the Freemen-occupied property," the news release said.

The FBI "still hopes there can be a peaceful, negotiated resolution without jeopardizing the safety of law enforcement personnel

- Waco
- Ruby Ridge
- Freemen

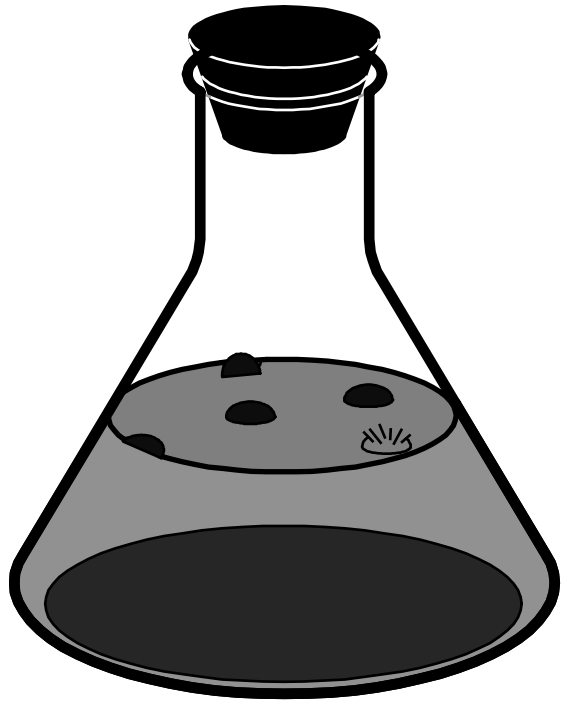
ALL USED THE ALLEGORICAL METHOD

Allegorical (Selective) Interpretation

Vickie Weaver of Ruby Ridge Taught

- **Modern “Zionist” Israel is Satan’s Seed**
- **The White (Arian) Race is True Israel**
- **They were the inheritors of Israel’s promises**

The PLAIN FACT:



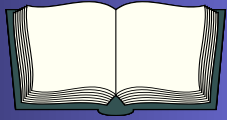
Every significant theological difference found between churches can be traced to the practice of mixing allegorical and literal interpretation.

Examples of BAD Mixes:

The BIBLE says:

- There is a real hell with real fire in it.

(Luke 16)



Luke 16:23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Examples of BAD Mixes:

The BIBLE says:

- There is a real hell with real fire in it.

(Luke 16)

Allegorists often teach:

- Luke 16 is only a picture of emotional suffering.
- God would never send men to eternal torment.

Examples of BAD Mixes:

Simple BIBLE truth:

- **Salvation by Grace thru Faith**
- **Believers' Baptism**
- **The Lord's Table**

Typical Allegorical Errors:

- **Salvation by Grace plus Works**
- **Infant Baptism**
- **Christ is in bread and wine**

- Principles of Bible Study -

#3 Behind every Bible figure or symbol there is a literal reality.

- Principles of Bible Study -

#4 Symbols and metaphors are used to illuminate existing Bible realities.

We never establish a Bible doctrine with their use.

**There are only three issues which
divide churches.**

The Issue of Authority

... one simple answer!

The Issue of Interpretation

... one simple answer!

The Issue of Obedience

... one simple answer!



- Principles of Bible Study -

*#5 Obey the TRUTH God
has shown you in His
Word.*

- Principles of Bible Study -

*#6 Obey God's WISDOM.
Submit your wisdom to
God's wisdom, and let the
Bible explain itself!*

A Good Quote from a Seminary Professor:

“Don’t tell me what YOU think it says, tell me what it says!”



Many answers to your questions can be found by reading a few verses before or after the passage which is in question.



Always read the context.



Other answers to your questions will be found in other books of the bible

 **Learn to use cross references.**

 **Learn to use your concordance.**

- Principles of Bible Study -

*#7 Let the Bible explain
your experience; never let
your experience explain the
Bible!*

Statements Based Upon Experience



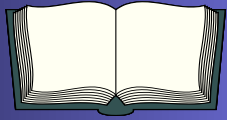
*“You can never take my
SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTER
away from me!”*

An Example...

“...I know I am a Christian because I speak in tongues (or, experienced a miracle).”

Fact!

MOST, if not ALL of the world's false religions claim to have a *tongues* experience and supernatural contacts.



2Co 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore [it is] no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. (AV) .

An Example...

***“You will never take my
baptism from me.”***

Fact!

BAPTISM has never once saved a baby, a child, a man, or a woman!

Baptism is not a form of pre-conversion.



1Co 1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. (AV) .

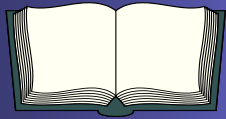
An Example...

**“I know I am right because I
have a *burning in my bosom*”**

**A true witness says “I know I am right because
I am resting on the promise of God.”**

FACT!

**MOST, if not ALL false
religious systems point to
ecstatic emotional
experiences!**



Heb 4:12 For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (AV)

Statements Based Upon Experience



“I must be right because I have PEACE about what I am doing.”

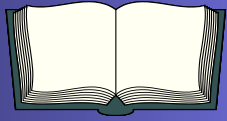


Isa 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, [it is] because [there is] no light in them. (AV)

Statements Based Upon Experience



“I know the Bible says this is wrong, but God understands my problem”

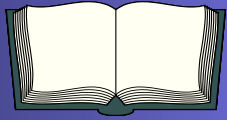


Ro 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

Statements Based Upon Experience



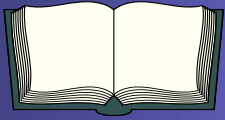
“God could never forgive me - I am too great a sinner”



Joh 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.

- Principles of Bible Study -

*#8 A Bible Passage has only
ONE
Interpretation.*



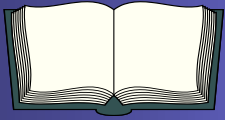
2Ch 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (AV)

The Correct Interpretation:

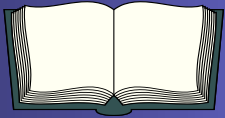
This Promise was made to God's people Israel - a theocratic kingdom. It was NOT made to the U.S.A.

The Correct Application:

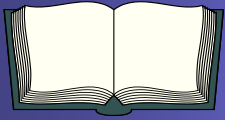
It is both right and proper to pray for our nation and to seek national repentance in disobedient times.



Eze 37:16 Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For **Judah**, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For **Joseph**, the stick of Ephraim, and [for] all the house of Israel his companions: (AV)



Eze 37:17 And **join them one to another into one stick**; and they shall become one in thine hand. And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou [meanest] by these?
(AV)



Eze 37:19 Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of **Joseph**, which [is] in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, [even] with the stick of **Judah**, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. (AV)

The Correct Interpretation:

- The sticks represent the houses of Judah and Joseph
- They will become one (be reunited).

An Erroneous Interpretation:

“The writings of the King James Bible and the Book of Mormon will be joined as one book”.

When This Rule Is Broken...

**Anyone can make the
Bible say anything he
wants it to at any time!**

Let's list the three issues and the eight principles!

I. The Issue of Authority.

Principle #1 Always accept the Bible as your ONLY authority

II. The Issue of Interpretation

Principle #2 Always interpret the Bible literally.

Principle #3 Behind every Bible figure or symbol there is a literal reality.

Principle #4 Symbols and metaphors are used to illuminate existing Bible realities.

III. The Issue of Obedience

Principle #5 Obey the TRUTH God has shown you in His Word.

Principle #6 Obey God's WISDOM. Submit your wisdom to God's wisdom.

Principle #7 Let the Bible explain your experience; never let your experience explain the Bible!

Principle #8 A Bible Passage has only ONE Interpretation.

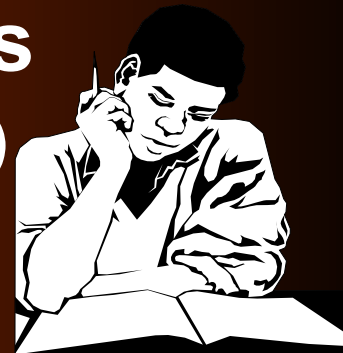


*Principles of Bible
Study...*

...thank you!



- **Jesus Christ is the Son of God** (John 10:36-38)
- **He shed His blood and died on the cross to take away our sins.** (Romans 3:25)
- **We cannot make up for the bad we have done by being good.** (Ephesians 2:8-10)
- **We can have the righteousness (goodness) of Jesus Christ given to us.** (Romans 5:1)
- **Agree with God that you are sinful (repent) and, by faith, receive God's forgiveness!** (Acts 17:30, Romans 10:9-10)



End of Presentation

Visit us at StandingTrue.com

