

## The Guiding Principles for Biblical Interpretation 释经指导原则

### Some Key terms to know:

一些关键词:

#### Exegesis 解经 (“解出来”)

The critical or technical application of hermeneutical principles to a biblical text in the original language with a view to the exposition or declaration of its meaning. To exegete is to extract the intended meaning of a passage of scripture through the proper use of hermeneutics.

以解释经文意义为目的，在一段经文的原文上，严谨地应用释经学原则。“解经”就是通过合理运用释经学原则，将经文所要表达的意义提取出来。

#### Eisegesis “反向”解经 (“解进去”)

This is a widely used interpretation of a biblical passage that expresses the interpreter's own ideas, bias, theological presuppositions or first impressions of a passage of a scripture. Eisegesis is assigning a meaning to a passage rather than extracting the intended meaning of a God's word.

发表解经者自己对一段经文的想法、成见、神学预设，或第一印象；这是一种被广泛使用的释经法。“反向解经”不是从神的话中提取原意，而是将意义赋予经文。

#### Allegorize 寓言化 (“灵意”解经)

To assign a meaning to a biblical text that exceeds the literal, customary plain meaning of the text. To give insights from a passage that is not obvious from the literal, grammatical and contextual understanding of the passage

将超出字面、通俗意义的释义赋予一段经文。就是赋予经文一些无法直接明了地从字面、语法、上下文中得到的“亮光”。

There is only one intended meaning to every passage of the Scriptures. The task of the bible students is to extract that intended meaning through the careful use of the principles of biblical interpretation. This is called hermeneutic, which is the art and science of biblical interpretation. An accurate interpretation of the scriptures is the scriptures. Anything else is nothing more than your subjective intrusion of a meaning upon the written word of God.

每段经文只有唯一一个原意。圣经学生的任务，就是谨慎运用各种释经的原则，将这个原意提取出来，这就是释经学——解释圣经的学问。正确解读的经文才是经文，其余都不过是你把你主观的想法强加于神所写的话。

Hermeneutics is everything when it comes to an accurate interpretation of the word of God.

To properly interpret the Bible, certain principles of interpretation must be observed, they are:

释经学对于准确解释神的话至关重要。要想正确解释圣经，必须遵守以下几点释经原则：

**1. The Literal Principle** - “To interpret the Bible literally is to interpret it as literature. That is, the natural meaning of a passage is to be interpreted according to the normal rules of grammar, speech, syntax and context.” (R.C. Sproul). Literal interpretation does not mean wooden literalism, which excludes figures of speech and other literary devices such as hyperbole that are frequently used in order to communicate information e.g., “if your eye offends you pluck it out,” “I am the gate,” and “I am the vine, you are the branches.” The opposite of the literal approach to Scripture is the allegorical approach.

**1. 字面意思原则** – “按字面意思解经，就是认识到圣经是由正常的文字构成的。也就是说，应当根据正常的语法、表达习惯、文法、以及上下文来理解一段经文的自然意义（原意）。”（史普罗）按字面解经不是死板的抠字眼，它并不排除比喻、夸张等修辞手法在传达信息时的作用。例句：“倘若你一只眼叫你跌倒，就把它剜出来”，“我就是门”，“我是葡萄树，你们是枝子”。与字面解经相对的是灵意解经。

To allegorize is to see a spiritual or hidden meaning that transcends the literal sense of a Scriptural passage. We are never to assign a meaning to a passage. We are to find the author's intent and meaning through diligent study and the assistance of the Holy Spirit.

灵意解经意图领悟超出经文字面意思的属灵亮光和隐藏的意义。我们绝不当把意义赋予经文，而应藉着刻苦的学习和圣灵的帮助，找出作者的意图和经文的意义。

**2. The Historical Principle** - An effort must be made to seek knowledge of the setting and the situation in which each book of the Bible was written. It is important to know who wrote the book; to whom was the letter addressed, what prompted him to write, and what historical events relevant to this book may have influenced what was written. This information is generally found in any good study Bible or a trusted commentary.

**2. 历史背景原则** - [圣经不是从真空中蹦出来的文字。所以，]我们需要花时间下工夫去了解每卷经书写作的历史背景：是谁写了这卷书？是写给谁的？为什么要写这卷书？有什么历史事件可能对书中的内容有影响？这些重要的信息基本都能从好的研读版圣经和可靠的圣经注释中找到。

**3. The Principle of Authorial Intent** – The expositor must determine what the NT author's original intent was in communicating what he did to a particular audience addressed in a letter or book. Critical in ascertaining the proper interpretation of a passage is discovering what was driving the author to write what he wrote. How would the original audience have understood what the author was conveying to them? The interpretive issue then is not first focused on what it means to a modern-day listener. That priority comes only after most of your exegetical work is done. Bible interpretation seeks to identify the single meaning of individual phrases, clauses, and sentences as they make up the thoughts of paragraphs, sections and ultimately, the entire book. The expositor must never read into the text what is not there. Nor is he to uncover multiple layers of meaning, as if finding some hidden allegorical meaning. Rather, he must seek to extract the one true meaning of the text, namely, the author's intended meaning. That is all that matters.

**3. 作者意图原则** - 释经者必须弄清楚，新约作者通过他们所写的文字，想要向原读者传达什么意思。正确解释经文的关键，就在于找出是什么意图，驱使作者写下这段经文。原读者会怎样理解作者向他们传达的信息？而经文对今天的读者意味着什么，并非释经的重点。尽管那很重要，但它是释经工作完成之后才应考虑的。释经的工作，就是力求确定每个短语、从句、句子的唯一意义，它们合在一起构成了段落、章节，乃至整卷书的思想。释经者绝不能把并不存在于经文中的东西读进经文里面去；也不可试图解出多重意义，似乎找到了什么隐藏的属灵意义。相反，他必须力求从经文里提取出那唯一真正的意义，就是作者想要表达的意义，这一点是至关重要的。

**4. The Grammatical Principle** - An effort must be made to understand what a particular passage is communicating in terms of words and grammar. This requires that we understand the basic grammatical structure of each sentence in the original language. To whom do the pronouns refer? What is the tense of the main verb? You will find that when you ask some simple questions like those, the meaning of the text immediately becomes clearer. As I mentioned above, it is necessary to take note of the key words in a passage. A key word is one that is essential to the meaning or the message that is being conveyed in the verse. Not every word is a keyword. Only a few selected words fit this category.

**4. 语法原则** - 我们必须努力去理解一段经文的字词和语法所表达的信息。这就要求我们了解每句

经文在原文里的基本语法结构。当你试着问自己一些简单的语法问题（如：“这个代词指的是谁？”，“这句话的主要动词是什么时态？”），你会发现经文的意义立刻变得更加明了。我们需要特别注意经文的关键词，就是那些对经文所表达的意义、信息至关重要的字词。关键词并不多，不要把每个词都当作关键词。

Use a bible dictionary to find out what the key word meant to those who were being addressed in the letter. A modern English dictionary should not be your first choice. You want to know how the original recipient of the book or letter understood the word.

可以通过查找圣经词典，了解这些关键词对书信的原读者意味着什么。注意，我们想要知道的是经卷原读者会怎么理解这些字词，因此现代英语/汉语词典不应成为你查阅的第一选择。

**5. The Synthetic Principle** - To synthesize something is to bring together the essential components of something that make it whole. The synthetic principle requires pulling together all that the Bible says about a given issue in order to get a complete and accurate understanding of God's revelation regarding a subject, concept or teaching. It is essentially letting the Bible interpret the Bible.

**5. 整合原则** - 整合就是把某件事的基本组成部分汇集在一起，使之成为一个整体。整合原则把圣经中所有关于某个主题、概念、教训的经文都找出来，使人们可以完整又准确地知道，神对于这个问题是如何启示的——整合原则本质上就是以经解经。

This is important because the Holy Spirit (Who is the chief agent of inspiration) does not disagree with Himself. Therefore, no part of the Bible contradicts any other part. It has one marvelous unity. The great importance of this principle of interpretation is that it should keep us from establishing a doctrine based solely on one passage of Scripture on a given concept, topic or teaching. For example, how would you interpret 1 Timothy 4:16 if you isolated that passage from all the others that speak about the issue of salvation? What conclusion would you come to if the only passage you had on the subject of divorce was Malachi 2:16? What conclusion would you come to regarding the vehicle of prayer if you referenced John 14:14 but not 1 John 5:14-15 or James 4:3? An excellent resource helpful in observing this principle is the MacArthur Topical Bible, which organizes the entire Bible into topics and provides the full scope of what God has communicated on a particular subject.

这一点很重要，因为圣经的启示者——圣灵——不可能自相矛盾。因此，没有任何一段经文会与其他经文相矛盾。圣经是完全合一的。这一释经原则的重要之处在于，它防止断章取义的解经——防止我们仅根据一段经文，就试图去构建关于某个主题的教义。举例：如果不考虑其他关于救恩的经文，你将如何解读【提前 4:16】的“救”？假如【玛 2:16】是你唯一读过的有关离婚的经文，你会对离婚下怎样的结论？关于祷告，如果你只参考【约 14:14】，而不考虑【约一 5:14-15】和【雅 4:3】，你将得出什么结论？《麦克阿瑟主题圣经》可以很好地帮助我们践行整合原则：它将整本圣经的经文按主题编排，使我们看到神对每个主题的完整启示。

**6. The Contextual Principle** - Proper interpretation of a passage or verse depends on paying close attention to the context in which the passage or verse is found. The context of a verse is the material immediately before it and immediately after it. It is the chapter, and even the paragraph, where a verse is found. The book, letter and Testament are all considered the context that must be referenced in interpreting a verse of Scripture. Remember that the Bible was not handed down at one time as a complete book. This means that in the process of revealing God's truth to man, God may add or even change in one era what he had given in another. At one time, approaching God with animal sacrifices was essential but now that the once for all sacrifice of Jesus Christ has been made, animal sacrifices are no longer required in order to approach a holy God for the forgiveness of your sins (see Hebrews 10). The New Testament adds much that was not revealed in the Old; furthermore, what God revealed as binding in one period may be rescinded in another. Context is king when it comes to interpreting the Word of God.

**6. 上下文原则** - 想要合理地解读一段经文，必须留意紧接于那段经文前后的内容，就是它的上下文。上下文可大可小：可以是经文所在的段落、章节、经卷，甚至是所在的约（新约或旧约），这些都是解经时必须参考的上下文。请注意，圣经 66 卷书并不是同一时刻赐下的，因此在神启示真理的漫长过程中，神可能会在某个时代，对从前的启示进行增添甚至更改（【来 7:12】）。神在新约中加入了许多在旧约尚未启示的真理（【弗 3:5】），甚至废除了一些在旧约时代必须遵守的条例（【来 7:18】）。旧约时代，人们必须以牲畜为祭，才能来到神面前；但如今，耶稣基督“献了一次永远的赎罪祭”，我们就不用再带着祭牲到神面前求赦罪之恩了（参【来 10】）。上下文乃解经之王道。

### **7. The Principle of Scripture Interpreting Scripture**

This principle is often described by theologians as the “analogy of faith” or “analogy of Scripture.” This approach to biblical interpretation is solidly based on the Bible’s own teachings. Bible is the best commentary on the bible. Since the Bible is the Word of God and God cannot lie or contradict Himself (Numbers 23:19; Hebrews 6:18), then one passage will never contradict another passage.

**7. 以经解经原则** - 这一释经原则通常被神学家们称为“信心的类比”或“经文的类比”。这种解经法紧紧抓住圣经本身的教训，因为圣经就是最好的解经书。圣经是神的话，而神决不能说谎，也不能背乎自己（【民 23:19】 【提后 2:13】 【来 6:18】）；因此，绝对没有一段经文会与另一段相矛盾。

Thomas Watson, esteemed Puritan, once wrote: “Nothing can cut the diamond but the diamond; nothing can interpret Scripture but Scripture.” It is amazing how much light the bible sheds upon itself.

汤姆·华森是一位备受尊敬的清教徒，他曾写道：“只有钻石可以切割钻石，也唯有圣经可以解释圣经。”我们常常看见一处经文解开后，它的光又照亮别处的经文，这真是奇妙。

Therefore, we must interpret the implications of a verse by the explicit revelation given to us regarding a topic, theological premise, or doctrinal position. For example, what is implied about salvation in 1 Timothy 4:16? What is explicitly revealed in the scriptures about salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31). How then should you understand 1 Timothy 4:16 as you place it in the context of the chapter?

因此，当我们解读一节经文所蕴含的主题或神学教义时，必须参考别处对该主题或神学教义更明确的启示。举个例子：【提前 4:16】蕴含了什么关于得救的道理？圣经关于得救的明确教导又是什么呢（【弗 2:8-9】 【罗 10:9-10】 【徒 16:31】）？基于这些教导，你将如何在上下文中理解【提前 4:16】关于得救的教导呢？