

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE WELL
JOHN 21:20-25 (ESV)

I. A simple process for reading the Bible is (1) observe, (2) interpret, (3) apply.

A. Observe: "What does the text _____?"

_____ down by

1. Reading the text multiple times,
2. _____ it in your own words, or
3. Rewriting it in _____ form.

B. Interpret: "What does the text _____?"

1. Determine what _____ can be drawn out of the text.

C. Apply: "What does the text _____ for _____?"

1. How does God want me to _____ to this text with faith and _____?

II. To interpret the Bible well, read it with humility.

A. Interpret Scripture humbly by remembering that we all

_____.

B. Our humility should be balanced with confidence that Scripture speaks _____ on what _____ most.

III. To interpret the Bible well, read it with care.

A. Pay attention! Don't _____ words, read it in _____, and _____ about what the author was really trying to communicate.

B. When God directed the apostles to write, He had a _____ in mind for them to communicate.

IV. To interpret the Bible well, read it with the _____.

A. We double-check our interpretations by comparing with...

1. Other _____

2. Historically-affirmed _____ of Scripture in creeds, confession, and catechisms, and...

3. Christians we _____, especially those placed in _____ over us.

B. Since Scripture was not generated by the thoughts of one man (2 Pet. 1:19-21), we should not expect individuals to have _____ insights into Scripture.