

INTERPRETING

All written documents are to be interpreted if they are to be understood. America has a document called the U. S. Constitution, and there are nine highly skilled individuals who have the daily task of proper interpretation of this document. These highly skilled individuals comprise the Supreme Court of our country.

No one would argue the point of a proper interpretation of the Constitution being done in a skillful and careful manner, because its interpretation governs our country. However, there is a document that is far more solemn in its interpretation than the Constitution. That document is the Bible (God's Authoritative Word).

We dare not interpret the Bible according to our own desires and prejudices. The principle of good Hermeneutics (interpretation) says, the Bible is to be interpreted by the Bible. What may appear to be obscure in one part of Scripture is made clear in another. Each text must be understood not only in light of the context, but also in light of the context of the whole of Scripture.

We must seek guidance of the Holy Spirit to understand what Scripture actually says, and guard against forcing our own views upon any text. Yet many err in this area. May God help us in this all important task of proper interpretation.

Scripture: King James Version: II Timothy 2:14-16; II Peter 1:16-21, 3:14-18.

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