

## ONE CORRECT MEANING

It has been noted, “The Bible is not a ‘waxed nose’ to be shaped and formed to suit the views of the interpreter.” This was one of the fears of Rome during the Reformation. Church history and theologians tell us that two very important things took place during the Reformation.

“First, it took from the Roman Catholic church its sole right of interpretation. No longer would the people be at the mercy of church doctrine, having to accept tradition or church teaching as an authority equal to God’s Word. Second, it put interpretation in the hands of the people. This change has been more problematic. It has led to the very excesses about which the Roman Catholic Church was concerned – subjective interpretations of the text that depart from historic Christian faith.”

When we look at this time in Church History, I think I can understand the concern of Rome, even though I disagree with the Catholic Church and its position. Rome feared not only the distortion of the historic Christian faith, but feared of losing control. This is the reason that Martin Luther was charged with heresy at the Diet of Worms. This council not only feared Luther’s teaching, they feared that his teaching would give free thought to the common people, which it did!

Yet this free thought does not mean that God’s people have the right to interpret the Bible in whatever manner they wish. Along with the right of free thought, comes the responsibility to interpret the Bible properly.

The Bible has one correct meaning, and before we go about trying to find personal applications, it is our duty first and foremost to find the correct meaning.

Scripture: King James Version: II Timothy 2:14-16.

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