Pastor Gary Glenney
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PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE INTERPRETATION
Biblical Hermeneutics-A Brief

1. **Hermeneutics** is the setting up of rules in any written material to properly interpret its subject matter (derived from the mythical Greek god *Herems* – the messenger of the gods). **Hermeneutics** is the science and skill of Biblical interpretation.
   a. ἑρμηνεία – (Greek. – hermeneia – interpretation.
   b. ἑρμηνεύω – (Gk. – hermeneuo – to interpret, to explain.

2. Always begin with the clear teaching concerning any subjects in Scripture, and then reconcile the obscure or seemingly contradictory passage or passages with them. (Isa. 28:9-13)

3. Interpret all Bible passages in light of their plain, literal, reasonable, grammatical, contextual, and syntactical sense. (Matt. 5:18, 19; 12:39-41; 24:37-39; John 8:58; 2 Tim. 2:15)

4. Interpret all passages literally unless otherwise demanded by the context as being metaphoric or other symbolic figures of speech. (John 1:29; 4:32-34; 6:31-35; 48-56; John 10:17-18; Gen.1:1-2:4ff; Matt. 1:18-25)

5. Interpret all passages in Scripture so that there is harmony with all other passages in Scripture. (Acts 17:10-12; 1 Cor. 14:33, 40)

6. Biblical interpretation must consider isagogics, categories, and exegesis (I.C.E.). (Isa. 28:9-13)
   a. Isagogics – Historic and cultural background
   b. Categories – Systematic classifications of theology
   c. Exegesis – Linguistic, grammatical, and syntactical interpretation

7. Biblical interpretation must recognize divine inspiration, progressive revelation, and a dispensational approach. (Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4; John 16:7-15; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21; Dan. 2:21, 22; 12:8-10; Amos 3:6-8; 1 Pet. 1:5; Rom. 16:25-27; Eph. 1:9, 10; 3:2-10; Col. 1:25-27; Heb. 1:1, 2; 11:25-27)

8. All Biblical passages must be interpreted in their context. (Examples: Rom. 10:12-17; Joel 2:30-32; Rev. 3:19-22; 1 John 5:4, 5; 2 Tim. 2:11-13)

Reference: *Hermeneutics* by Bernard L. Ramm and Others, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1971, Fourth printing 1976, 152 pages.