

#10 THE LITERAL FACTOR

1. Always take a passage _____ until it is impossible to take it literally or if we have clear instruction from scripture that we are dealing with SYMBOLISM.

KEY Very few passages in the Bible are symbolic. The symbols that do exist are usually clearly defined in the immediate context. (*Those not defined in the context can be defined elsewhere in the Bible by comparing scripture with scripture.*)

NOTE Many people use this as an excuse to justify their lack of understanding – when it is meant to help!

Matthew 13:1-23 _____ What is a parable? Verses 10-12; Jesus explains them!

Revelation 1:12-20 SYMBOLISM

Ezekiel 37:1-11 SYMBOLISM

NOTE Most symbolism is defined within the context. Others must be learned by comparing scriptures.

2. Keep in mind that God _____ to us, through the words of the Bible, just like we talk: (*God records real life*)

- **Figures of speech** - Gen. 4:10; Lev. 18:25; Nu. 14:9; Joshua 24:27; Prov. 18:2
 - *Figure of speech - Figuratively explaining something (IE. sunrise / sunset)*
- **Sarcastic statements** - Judges 9:7-15; 10:14; 1 Kings 18:27; Job 12:2-3; 18:5; 2 Co. 11:16-19
 - *Sarcasm - cutting or taunting in order to aggravate or hurt someone's feelings; A mocking remark utilizing statements opposite or irrelevant to the underlying meaning.*
- **Hyperboles** - Gen. 33:10; Deut. 1:28; Judges 7:12; 2 Kings 19:24; 1 Co. 13:1-2; 2 Co. 7:14
 - *Hyperbole - An exaggerated statement used for effect not meant to be taken literally.*
- **Satirical statements** - Gen. 37:19; 1 Samuel 17:41-44; Ecc. 2:1-11; Matthew 23:1-33
 - *Satire - A literary work in which irony, derision, or wit is used to expose folly or wickedness.*
- **Sanctimony** - Job 33:9; Isaiah 58:2; 65:5; Rev. 3:17
 - *Sanctimonious - Making a pretense of piety.*

Key Point **Always** take a passage **literally** unless it is impossible to do so!
This simplifies what you read and increases your comprehension.

#11 THE ATTITUDE FACTOR

1. Always be ready to _____ whatever you have been taught or you have believed when it goes _____ to the Bible.

KEY Never make the Bible line up with what you believe!

KEY Always line yourself up to what the _____ clearly _____!

NOTE Obviously you must follow the basic “*Rules of Bible Study*” before believing something that would ultimately be unbiblical (see *Proverbs 14:15*).

2. We often ridicule others for following after “_____ of men,” but end up, practically speaking, doing the _____ thing!

- The Bible is a timeless book. It transcends time, history and culture. If it does not, then it is not the Bible!
- Some examples:

Clothes/Dress We must remember that our generation loses meaning from past generations. Many like to dress up and look our best, but consider that this may have come from the 1950’s. There were no casual clothes at that time in history – they did not exist. Look at old movies – Ward Cleaver mowing the lawn in a suit and tie, old baseball games with men in suits and ladies in dresses. The choice was either work clothes (coveralls) or dress clothes. We don’t live like that now...

Methodology In an effort to boost attendance and keep numbers high, there have been ice cream socials, world’s largest hot dog contests, people parachuting into parking lots, preaching the gospel/evangelism week after week on Sunday morning (to 1% of the room), bus ministries to boost numbers (not always). There was no reproducing; only addition – it led to week Christians and empty churches...

Music Only a certain type of music is called “Christian”, older hymns are preferred (they do indeed have a lot of depth in scripture) although all music represents the culture and time it was written (Martin Luther).

Attitude Historically, many Baptists have to be mad all the time...mad at everyone not like them. Some people feel like other churches are “competitors. Ask any independent Baptist pastor where he gets the most nasty calls and letters from...

- A practical illustration of this Bible study factor
 - In many churches, there are 3 offices or officers – pastors, elders and deacons. (*“the board”*)

Titus 1:5-7 (also *Phil 1:1*; *1 Tim 3:2*); Acts 20:17, 28; Eph. 4:11

NOTE A bishop is an elder – they are the _____ office!

Overseer = one who presides or in charge of; the overseer of a flock is called a _____!
 Shepherd = _____ – we use the title pastor, though the others are Biblical, because the terms have been twisted!

NOTE There are some who need to _____ what they believe concerning this issue in light of what the Bible says!

Key Point **Always** be prepared to change whatever you have been taught or you have believed when it goes _____ to what the Bible says. This is so very important and cannot be said enough!!!