

**#6 THE COMPARISON FACTOR**

1. The Bible is of no \_\_\_\_\_ interpretation. All interpretations must be done by comparing \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.

a. No private interpretations – 2 Peter 1:20

**NOTE:** Verse 20 clearly teaches us that the Bible is of *no private interpretation!*

- Whether you like it or not...
- Whether others agree with you or not...

**KEY:** In a literal sense, this destroys the argument of all those who *hide behind* the saying...

..."That is just *your* interpretation."

At issue is not your interpretation or mine, but rather *the interpretation of the Author* of the Bible – the \_\_\_\_\_.

Example – who would be the best person to interpret my letter to you?

b. Compare spiritual things with spiritual – 1 Corinthians 2:1-14; Rom 7:14; John 6:63

- Vs 1-8 Paul explains the contrast between man’s wisdom and God’s wisdom as revealed in His Word
- Vs 9-12 Even the “*deep things of God*” are \_\_\_\_\_ to those who possess His Spirit.
- Vs 13 Comparing spiritual things with spiritual things is how the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ us.
- Vs 14 The Word of God cannot be understood by mere \_\_\_\_\_ reasoning \_\_\_\_\_.

**NOTE:** Modern versions of the Bible are published with the intention of being easily understood by anyone in a single reading. A Bible that can be understood by anyone is \_\_\_\_\_ the same Bible presented in 1 Corinthians 2:13. Anyone can understand history, grammar, and language, but the truth of the Bible is spiritually discerned as we \_\_\_\_\_ scripture with scripture.

**KEY:** Our goal is neither to judge nor belittle someone who would use another translation, nor to condemn a baby Christian using a modern version to “catch the flow” of the Bible.

There comes a time, though, in *serious study of the Bible*, to rightly divide the Scripture and pay due diligence to *every word*. That is the time to make certain you have a translation that is not going to be dropping “jots” or “tittles” and removing the road signs and landmarks!

Does that make sense?

c. The importance of two or three witnesses.

**NOTE:** Having more than one witness/testimony to determine an unknown difficulty was established long ago!

2 Cor 13:1

Deut 19:15

Num 35:30

d. Cross referencing – Isaiah 28:9-10, 13

**KEY:** The absolute best commentary on the Bible is the \_\_\_\_\_, not our personal opinion.

To become proficient at understanding the Bible, you \_\_\_\_\_ exercise yourself in the use of cross-referencing (e.g. Treasury of Scripture Knowledge), tracking words throughout the Bible through the use of a **concordance** (e.g. Strong's), and by **taking notes**.

- This is how we understand what God is communicating to us...
- This is how we avoid our own personal opinions and private interpretations...
- Don't miss this critical factor or \_\_\_\_\_ of Bible study...
- Remember – The Bible is of no private interpretation. All interpretations must be done by comparing scripture with scripture.

3. An illustration of this Bible study factor:

a. Job 41:1

- Q: What is a \_\_\_\_\_?
- A: \_\_\_\_\_

b. What does the Bible say? ...let's compare scripture with scripture...

- Psalm 74:13-14 Leviathan has heads (plural) – it is equated to dragons...
- Isaiah 27:1 Leviathan is a piercing and crooked serpent; again equated to dragon...
- Rev 12:3, 9 A red dragon with many heads (plural); that dragon, that old serpent, the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!

c. Now see Job 41

**NOTE:** The devil is slick, but we can identify him!

- We did so by comparing scripture with scripture!
- Most Christians are clueless...because they do not compare scripture with scripture...

**Remember...**

√ The Bible is of \_\_\_\_\_ private interpretation.

√ \_\_\_\_\_ interpretations must be done by comparing scripture with scripture.

