

Women Counseling Women:
Biblical Answers to Life's Difficult Problems

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Week 2

“Interpreting God’s Word Accurately”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the answer to our most basic needs and problems.

The Bible contains God’s life-giving words, and we are in desperate need to hear what God has spoken. (Deuteronomy 32:47)

We do not need yet another human opinion; we need God’s authoritative guidance about the solutions to our problems.

God is the one who determines the meaning of Scripture because He is the Author of the Bible. (II Peter 1:20-21)

Our task as readers is to draw out the single meaning intended by God - not to determine it by our own subjective opinion.

General principles for correctly interpreting the Bible (hermeneutics):

1. Context Determines the Meaning

Chapter and Book
Historical/Cultural
Literary Genre

2. Scripture Can Never Contradict Scripture

3. Vague/ Unclear Passages Must Not Determine Our Doctrine

“Spiritual Discernment: How Can I Know What Is True?”

All of us are in a battle for our minds, a battle in which we must separate truth from error. (Ephesians 6:10-18) (Romans 12:2)

God’s Word is the only source of eternal, unchanging truth that we can rely on. (II Timothy 3:15-17)

Spiritual discernment is the learned ability to understand and apply the truths found in God’s Word so that we are able to separate truth from error and right from wrong. (Proverbs 2:5-6)

We learn to discern truth from error by constant and close study of the real thing, God’s Word. (Psalm 1:1-3)

The Bible is an important “magnifying glass” that helps provide clarity for you as you sift through all the messages the world throws at you. (Psalm 119:105)

Believers are to examine what they think, hear, see, and do, and measure it all against what God’s Word says. What you think of and understand about God will always drive your responses to everything in life.

God has given us His Word.
(John 17:17)

God has given believers the Helper, the Holy Spirit.
(John 16:13, I Corinthians 2: 10-16)

God has given us the privilege of coming to Him in prayer.
(James 1:2-5, Hebrews 4:16)

God has given us His church.
(Hebrews 10:23-25)

Proverbs 2:6 “For the Lord gives wisdom;
From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.”