

2nd Quarter 2020: How to Interpret Scripture

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In This Quarter...

we will examine how the Bible teaches us to interpret itself. That is, rather than first going to such extra-biblical sources as science, philosophy, and history (which, if used correctly, can be a blessing), we will seek to uncover from within the biblical texts the tools that reveal the great truths found in its sacred pages. We are told that “holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2Pet. 1:21, NKJV). And we believe that among the things these “holy men of God spoke” are keys to helping us interpret the Word of God. We won’t find a better example on how to read the Bible than from Jesus. At the same time, we will explore our own presuppositions and reasoning about context, language, culture, and history and how they impact the way we read and understand the Word of God. How are we to interpret the parables, prophecies, sacred history, admonitions, songs of praise, prophetic visions, and dreams—the whole spectrum of inspired writing found in the Scriptures? All these questions and more will be explored this quarter because, as doctrines like eternal torment in hell or Sunday sacredness show, believing in the Bible itself isn’t enough. We must learn how to interpret it, as well.

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