

## **Recap of 1/7/18:**

### *Eight basic principles of Bible interpretation*

- 1. Interpret literally, plainly, allowing for figures of speech. "When the plain sense makes good sense seek no other sense." (Dr. David Cooper)*
- 2. Observe the context (phrase, sentence, verse, paragraph, chapter, book, testament). "A text without a context is a pretext."*
- 3. Interpret Scripture by Scripture. Cross reference the thought not just the word.*
- 4. Understand the historical situation (use a Bible Atlas, Bible Dictionary, Bible Commentary).*
- 5. Observe the progress of revelation—distinguish God's dealings with different people. For example: distinguish between passages written specifically to Israel (under Law) or passages written to the Church (under Grace). Ask yourself: "Is this statement, command, promise, etc. universal or temporary?"*
- 6. Interpret grammatically—observe the relationship of words to each other. God's revelation came in words so grammar and syntax are important.*
- 7. Use a crucial approach, questions every interpretation, compare your findings with what others have understood a passage to mean (a good place to use a good commentary).*
- 8. Guard against reading into Scripture what isn't there; let the passage speak for itself. Don't force a meaning onto the text, or proof text (forcing a meaning on a text which is not there to prove an interpretation).*