

Recap of 10/21/18 (1 Timothy 6:17-21)

1. Paul's instruction to the rich in vv. 17-19 is that they should be "generous and willing to share." Having money is an opportunity to support God's work, to help and to serve others. In the words of Merrill F. Unger: "They should rather be rich in good works, ready to use their wealth to advance God's work and to share with poor believers."

2. Paul closes the book with a call to guard the truth, the body of Biblical doctrine which had been entrusted to them to pass on to the next generation, and not be swayed by the false teachers. A charge that is still relevant today.

-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).