

# **LOGOS**

(1<sup>st</sup> Year)

March 6, 2011

## **REVERENCE OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES**

### Part 2

God has revealed Himself to us in His inspired Word. The Word of God will provide light to our spiritual blindness. But in order for the Scriptures to give us this light we must understand the Scriptures properly, and we must then believe and apply them in faith. If man is to understand the Bible properly and then apply it to his life, two things must first occur: 1) Man needs the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit, and 2) Man must apply a proper and consistent method of interpretation.

### **INTERPRETATION**

The illuminating work of the Spirit goes hand-in-hand with the interpretation of Scripture. Illumination is assured for all believers, but it does not always guarantee accurate interpretation. And if the interpretation is wrong, so will be the understanding of the passage in question.

The terms “plain” or “normal” are used to express the proper method of interpretation. By “plain” or “normal” we mean the words of Scripture are to be understood in their normal meaning just as we normally understand words in our normal, everyday communication.

- Interpretation = The careful **process** of finding out what Scripture **means** by what it **says**.
- The principles of “normal” or “plain” hermeneutics must be followed.
- Hermeneutics is the **science** and **art** of interpreting the Bible.

## **PRINCIPLES OF THE PLAIN, NORMAL METHOD OF INTERPRETATION**

- (1) We must interpret the Bible grammatically.
- (2) We must study the Bible historically.
- (3) We must study the Bible contextually.
- (4) We must interpret according to the analogy of Scripture.
- (5) We need to recognize the progressive nature of God’s revelation.

# **ILLUMINATION**

## **THE NEED FOR ILLUMINATION**

Man needs special enablement from God due to the Bible’s spiritual dimension that raises it above man’s natural abilities. One key passage in the NT speaks clearly on this issue: 1 Corinthians 2:11-14. This reality requires that a special work of God is needed to make the Scripture understandable to both the natural man (unsaved) and to the saved. This work of God is called “illumination.”

## THE DEFINITION OF ILLUMINATION

Illumination can be defined as “the special ministry of the Holy Spirit whereby He enlightens men so they can comprehend the written Word of God.” Illumination begins with the pre-salvation work of the Spirit to bring demonstrable proof of the claims of the gospel that people might trust in Christ (cf. John 1:9; 16:8-11; 2 Tim. 1:10; Heb. 6:4). Generally, illumination is used in reference to the ministry of the Holy Spirit in enabling believers to understand the Scripture (Eph. 1:18; 3:9).

The Holy Spirit is the believer’s means of spiritual illumination. Four New Testament passages focus on this ministry of the Spirit; these are John 16:12-15; 1 Corinthians 2:9-3:3; Ephesians 3:16-19; and 1 John 2:20 and 27.

- The **Holy Spirit** is the Person of the Godhead who **teaches** truth to God’s children.
- When the Holy Spirit is the teacher, scriptural **meanings** and **principles** are made clear.
- When a believer is taught by the Holy Spirit the **truth** of Scripture, and it becomes **clear**, the person has been illuminated.

### APPLICATION

- There can be **many** applications as long as they do not **violate** the interpretation.
- Scriptural meanings are to be “**lived out**”, or **practiced** through application.

# DUPLICATION

According to the words of Christ Christians are to make disciples (Matthew 28:19–20). That process does not end at the point of sharing the Gospel and helping another person to come to a saving faith in Christ (Colossians 1:28).

- Duplication = The process of experiencing Biblical life change, and sharing that with others through **teaching** and **training**.
- We commonly refer to this **process** as discipleship.