

## **The Bible**

The 66 books of the Old and New Testaments were inspired by God and free from all errors **in their original forms**. This does not mean, however, that your particular translation is error free. The original Scriptures were passed down and copied over and over and over again. Man's propensity for fallibility, as well as translational bias, has crept into the Scriptures. No single manuscript or translation of the Scriptures is perfect. Still, the Bible is the only source of infallible truth today, but must be diligently sought after through careful and critical investigation of ancient manuscripts and translations. There is a truth (John 4:24). That means that there can only be one truth. There is not one truth per person. The Bible gives us truth. It is sufficient to fully equip the people of God for every situation (See 2 Timothy 3:12-17). The Bible is the final authority in all matters for all Christians and Christian assemblies.

The secret to understanding the Bible is harmony. And there is a process by which all Christians that truly seek after God can find that harmony and truth. There are "rules of interpretation" that can be followed to filter out translator bias, and copying errors in the Scriptures.

The Original Scriptures are infallible, and harmony can be found by following the **Rules of Interpretation**:

1. Greek and Hebrew grammar cannot be violated. Do not violate the grammar.
2. Interpret within the historical setting of the day (historical context, & culture).
3. Interpret Scripture progressively (new revelation compliments and builds on older revelation, never contradicting it).
4. Reject all doctrines that defy sound logic (reject mutually exclusive ideas).
5. Agreement with God's nature (God never acts contrary to His revealed nature).
6. Literal meaning has priority over non-literal interpretation. (This is the objective approach.)
7. Trace the history of Christian doctrines. (See how, when, and why doctrines came into the picture. If they came in at any time after the Apostles, they are doctrines of men, and should be rejected as part of the "Gospel".)

Given the assumption that the Bible is the revelation of God to man and therefore infallible, these principles are designed to remove personal bias and faulty presuppositions as much as possible.