

PARTICULAR LAWS OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION
PART 4-THE LAW OF “APPLICATION”

I. The Law Stated:

Scripture **must** be correctly *interpreted before* it can be *applied*. With any passage of Scripture, there is only **one** correct *interpretation*, but there can be **many** proper *applications*.

II. Three Kinds Of Application.

In applying the **WORD OF GOD** to any situation, it is important to note **three** kinds of *applications*.

A. Precepts.

Those things which the Bible assuredly declares!
i.e. commandments.

If the Bible **commands** or **forbids** something, there is clearly no room for debate! We are duty bound to obey its **precepts!**
John 14:15–“*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*”

B. Principles.

Those things which the **BIBLE** implies from **principles** found therein. *i.e. convictions.*

For example, Believers should not smoke or chew tobacco, not because of a **command**, but because of the **Scriptural principle** that a Believer’s physical body is to be kept from hurtful activities and to be kept pure for service.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17–“*Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*”

1 Corinthians 6:19–“*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.*”

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C. Preferences.

Those things about which the **BIBLE** is silent; *i.e. choices.*

For example, a man may wear a tie to Church meetings for personal reasons. But that is a practice which is neither mandated, maligned, nor mentioned in the **BIBLE**.

III. Examples Of This Law:

A. Historical Narratives Often Have A Spiritual Application.

1. Story Of Noah’s Ark–**Genesis 7.**

This historical account of the building of the **ARK** of safety and the great flood yields the **spiritual application** of **CHRIST** as our “**ARK**” of salvation **WHO** delivers us from the “**flood**” of **GOD’S** wrath. Only those who were **in** the **ARK** were saved–only those who are **in** Christ are saved.

2. Story Of David And Mephibosheth–**2 Samuel 9.**

The heart-warming account of **King David’s** kindness to the house of **Saul** offers a **spiritual application** of the **GRACE OF GOD.**

Mephibosheth had fallen, was lame, of a cursed family, and living in **Lodebar** (which means “*no pasture*”)–pictures the sinner outside of Christ.

David is a picture of **GOD THE FATHER**–seeking the lost, showing kindness for the sake of another, bringing the lost into a family relationship, and inviting the saved sinner to sit at **HIS** table.

3. Healing Of Naaman–**2 Kings 5.**

Again, this historical account presents a rich picture of salvation.

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The **leprosy** is a picture of sin—no respecter of persons, causing separation (*Lev. 13:44-46*), carrying a sentence of death, and requiring a divine cure.

Naaman is a picture of a self-righteous sinner—offering the wrong price (*vs 5*), coming to the wrong person (*vs 6*), and seeking the wrong prescription (*vs 11*).

The **cleansing** is a picture of how we are saved—requiring *faith (vs 10)*, *humility (vs 12)*, and *obedience (vs 14)*.

4. Calming Of The Storm—Mark 4:35-41.

The interpretation of this passage is simple. It tells us of how the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** calmed both the storm and the fears of **HIS** disciples while on the Sea of Galilee.

The *spiritual application* of this account helps calm the fears of **GOD’s** children as they pass through the “*storms of life.*” Consider the following:

- a. Storms will come.
- b. Storms come even when we are in the will of God—*vs. 35. (Cf. John 16:33)*
- c. Storms make it appear that **JESUS** doesn’t care—*vs. 38; Psalm 121:4.*
- d. Storms brings us to **CHRIST**—*vs. 38b.*
- e. Storms reveal our problems—*vs. 40.*

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- f. Storms reveal something new about **JESUS CHRIST**— *Vs. 41.*