

## How to Interpret the Bible – Lesson Three

### Look carefully at the words

#### A. Look carefully at the meanings of words and how they are used

turkey =

Read Matthew 1:19; Luke 1:6; Galatians 3:11

1. The word “righteous” (translated upright in Luke 1) has two different meanings in these verses. What are they?
2. How does the context help you understand how the word is used?

Read Luke 15:32

The word dead is obviously not used here in the sense of physical death. How do we know?

Matthew 28:7

Romans 6:23

Romans 8:10

Ephesians 2:1

1Thessalonians 4:16

#### B. Look carefully at the kind of writing the author is using

1. **Narrative** = the statement of historical data. The reader is given a report of such things as what took place, at what time, who was involved, where, and why.
2. **Poetry** = characterized by several kinds of parallelism. The second part of a line (or second line) will explain, expand on, or contrast with the first part of the line (or preceding line).
3. **Epistles** = letters written to churches or individuals. They have a distinct structure (as in letters we write). They also have a distinct historical context, which must be taken into account.
4. **Prophecy-teaching** = a general term for the declaration and explanation of spiritual truths. Bible writers convict people of sin, declare God’s plan of salvation in Christ and urge their readers to embrace and cling to the grace of God by faith.
5. **Apocalypse** = characterized by fantastic imagery. Often, as in much of Revelation, entire chapters comprise a vision made up of symbols.