

SERMON NOTES

Series: Building Upon the Firm

Foundation of God's Word

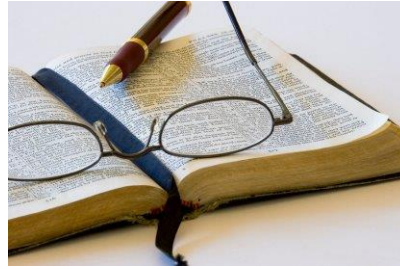
Title: By Understanding the
Meaning of a Passage (III)

Text: John 15:1-17

Topic: How to Study the Bible

Teacher: Pastor Barry

Time: 8/14/22; File Under: Christian Living



"If anyone doesn't remain in me, he's like a branch that's thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned." John 15:6

The second principle of interpretation is...

2. YOU MUST DEFINE THE KEY WORDS.

You can't assume you know the meaning of a word because many words have multiple meanings.

The mistake some make in interpreting John 15:6 is they see the word fire and think it must mean hell.

In John 15:1-17, the word "fruit" is used nine times in seventeen verses. But what is it?

The word "fruit" is used forty-four times in the New Testament, and it has at least ten different meanings.

3. I must interpret unclear verses with clear ones.

In John 15 we find three clear characteristics of fruit in verses 4, 8 & 11.

- a. *"Remain in me, and I will remain in you."* (4) "remain" means to stay, to continue, to abide, to connect. Bearing fruit is produced by remaining in Christ.
- b. *"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."* (8) Bearing fruit brings glory to God.
- c. *"I have told you this [Jesus says] so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."* (11) Bearing fruit will give me complete joy.

4. Look for the most obvious meaning.

Avoid the temptation to want to find some deep, hidden meaning in the Bible. There are no secrets in the Bible. The purpose of the Bible is to reveal God, not to conceal him.

Don't try to make every detail mean something. When there's a story in the Bible, every detail doesn't have a spiritual meaning.