

## When Reading the Bible

### You should consider

#### **Who is talking?**

In the Bible we find not only the words of God but also the words of Satan and uninspired people.

#### **Who is being spoken to?**

There are portions of the Bible that apply only to certain people (the command to build the ark was for Noah, the command to go to Jerusalem for Pentecost was for the Jews).

#### **What is the context?**

The “context” is the immediate setting a verse is found in. A context is found by looking at the paragraph or chapter that a verse is found in. It is finding the point or meaning that the writer was making. Without looking at the context, a verse can be used in ways God did not intend for it to be used.

#### Look for:

- **Key Words:** are words that are repeated several times.
- **Plain explanations:** Often the Bible will explain itself. Jesus explained the meaning of many of the parables.
- **Search other verses** Not all of the verses on a particular subject will be in one place, or even one book of the Bible. Using a concordance, gather all the verses to find what God has completely said on a subject. Remember the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls (Mt. 13:45)

#### **Is it consistent?**

The Bible is consistent. Proper understanding of a verse means that it fits in with the larger picture with the rest of the Bible. God is not going to say different things within the NT. The Bible does not contradict itself.