

Presbyterian Understanding and Use of Holy Scripture

“The authority of Holy Scripture is made real in human life when it is employed in reverence and hope and the word of God is heard and received.”

Introduction

This study has been established to help formulate principles to help guide the interpretation of scripture.

I. GUIDELINES CONCERNING WHAT THE TEXT SAYS

A. The Use of Original Languages

B. The Employment of the Best Manuscripts

C. The Priority of Evidential Sense of the Text

1. The Definition of Literary Units

2. The Recognition of the Cultural Conditioning of Language

3. The Understanding of Social and Historical Circumstances

II. GUIDELINES CONCERNING HOW THE TEXT IS RIGHTLY USED

A. The Purpose of Holy Scripture

B. The Precedence of Holy Scripture

1. The Priority of Holy Scripture

2. The Use of Knowledge

3. The Use of Experience

C. The Centrality of Jesus Christ

D. The Interpretation of Scripture by Scripture

E. The Rule of Love

F. The Rule of Faith

G. The Fallibility of All Interpretation

H. The Relation of Word and Spirit