

Something has got to happen in us before we understand the scriptures.

We cannot understand the word of God by just deciding that we are going to have a training course. We are going to have some classes for Bible teaching. That is not the way in which we come to understanding of the word of God.

We shall only understand according to the measure of our spiritual life. That is the third principle of Biblical interpretation. Now number four.

The final mention of any particular matter in the Bible is usually a key to all its meaning. That is something that you must just think about. We find certain things mentioned again and again in the Bible.

But when we come to the final occasion where that thing is mentioned. We usually find the key to all that has been said about that matter before. If you take a particular matter.

Where it is mentioned for the last time. And then note the setting and the context and the relationship. You will get the full meaning of all that has been said about that before.

Now that is a statement that I have made. You need to work on that. But I will help you by taking just one illustration.

In the last chapter of the Bible Revelation 22 And verse 2 We have the last reference to the Tree of Life Now when we go right back to the beginning of the Bible We have the Tree of Life mentioned But we are told nothing about it It is just referred to as something that exists We have no explanation We are not told what that tree is Or what it means It is just referred to as the Tree of Life We have to go to the end of the Bible For the explanation And when we come to this last chapter of the Bible By the context and relationship We have a very large

explanation Supposing we look at the passage Revelation 22 And he shows me a river of water of life Bright as crystal Proceeding out of the throne of God And of the Lamb Note the context The throne of God and of the Lamb You've got to read the whole book of the Revelation To understand that There's a tremendous amount In the early chapters of this book About the throne of God and of the Lamb And you have to understand What the throne of God is And what is the significance Of the throne of the Lamb In the midst of the throne is a Lamb Now in relation to the throne of God and

And spiritual value is just how it affects our life with God
I do wish that Adam had recognized that When Satan tempted him to take up the

tree of knowledge If only Adam had said How will this affect my life with God
He and we should have been saved all the trouble
So let me say this again Spiritual value is just in how it affects our life with God
Shall I put that in another way?
Just how much it increases the measure of Christ If Christ is the interpretation of the Bible
The spiritual knowledge of the Bible Results in an increase of Christ
If our days together now do not result in an increase of the measure of Christ We have missed the way
You may go away in two weeks time with your notebooks very full

And you may have an idea that you have got a lot more knowledge
But if we do not go away More Christ-like men and women With a larger measure of the Lord Jesus This training course has failed So I beg of you to pray all the way through That this time may mean spiritual increase
Not intellectual enlargement But spiritual knowledge
Everything has got to be judged By how much it contributes to the ultimate purpose of God
We have to ask where does this lead us to
Is it leading us anywhere? What is it leading us to?
All spiritual knowledge leads to an increase of Christ
It

contributes to the ultimate purpose of God The question always is How much of life is there in it?
It is not a matter of interest
It is not a matter of interest And the real value is the spiritual
In our second hour we shall take that over Into our special subject for study in these coming days
Now you have a little over half an hour before we meet again
May I suggest that if you can You will read some chapters
I would like you to read the first three chapters of the prophet Ezekiel
You will have to read them all at once in these coming days
But it would be a help if you had refreshed your mind With what is in those three

chapters So we will come back with that in half an hour

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