

1. To review the previous four approaches:
  - a) **SUPERNATURALISTIC**  
 = allegorical or mystical interpretation in which the hidden meaning rules
  - b) **NATURALISTIC**  
 = rationalistic interpretation in which human reasoning rules
  - c) **EXISTENTIALISTIC**  
 = an unworkable combination of naturalism and subjectivism in which belief and experience rule
  - d) **DOGMATIC**  
 = the interpretation of every biblical passage in which a presupposed doctrine rules
2. although each of the above approaches emphasizes a true assumption about Scripture, they neglect other presuppositions just as true
3. the essential error in each of the above faulty approaches is **SUBJECTIVISM**

**V** The "**CORRECT**" Approach

**THE AUTHOR'S INTENDED MEANING  
 RULES IN INTERPRETATION**

**"When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense."**

– Dr. D. L. Cooper

**For Accurate Bible Interpretation**

1. Keep in mind basic interpretation principles:
  - a) Scripture **says what it means and means what it says**
  - b) although there may be various applications for any text, there is only **ONE meaning** → the author's meaning
  - c) Scripture **does not contradict itself, so no text can be ascribed a meaning that contradicts any other text**
  - d) the best interpreter of Scripture is **Scripture itself – it is self-interpreting**
  - e) **Obscure, difficult passages must be interpreted in the light of clear passages; doctrines shouldn't be built on the vague**
  - f) the Scripture, with diligent study, will **disclose or reveal its correct intended meaning; favourite personal interpretations cannot be forced onto it**
  - g) the **New Testament is in the Old concealed; the Old is in the New revealed**
2. Consider these rules of interpretation:
  - a) choose **a word by word translation rather than a dynamic equivalent (thought by thought) or a paraphrased Bible translation**
  - b) determine **who wrote the passage and to whom it was written; and their culture**
  - c) pay attention to the **text's exact wording**
  - d) determine the **textual context** → context rules; interpret grammatically
  - e) determine the **literary genre of the text** e.g. historical, poetic, prophecy, letter
  - f) learn **how symbols, metaphors, and allegories function and to what they refer**
  - g) do not **spiritualize or literalize any passage inappropriately**
  - h) do not build a teaching on **silence or an unclear passage**
  - i) see **how your conclusions compare with those of trusted commentators – beware of "never before understood" meanings**

**Depend on the Holy Spirit**