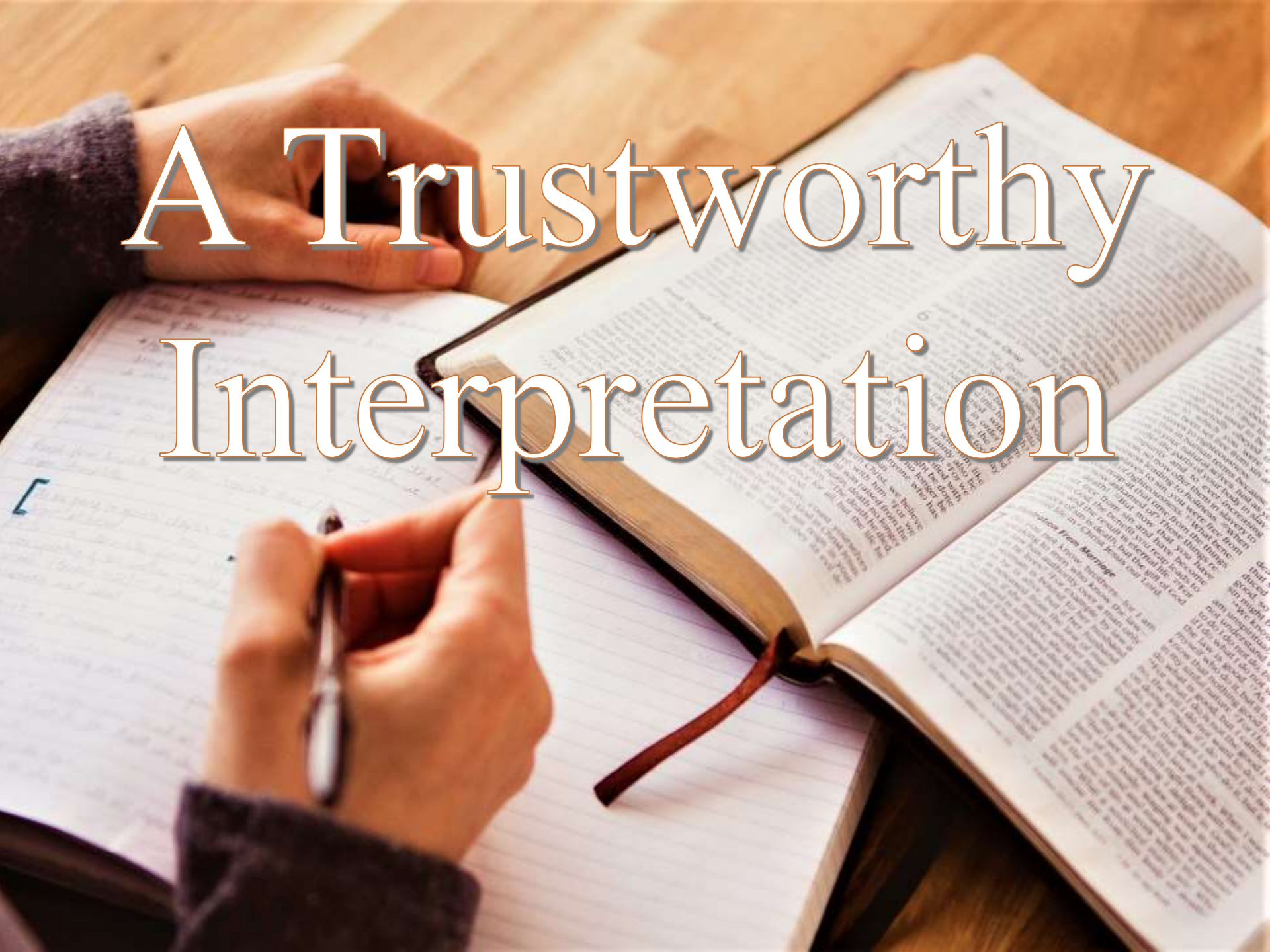


A Trustworthy Interpretation



A Trustworthy Interpretation

Rightly Handling the Word

*“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”
(2 Timothy 2:15)*

A Trustworthy Interpretation

Rightly Handling the Word

Main point:

The pursuit of a trustworthy interpretation will strengthen our relationship with God, and likewise strengthen our faith in the trustworthiness of God's Word.

A Trustworthy Interpretation

Rightly Handling the Word

A trustworthy interpretation must recognize the God's intimate engagement with humanity.



A Trustworthy Interpretation

Rightly Handling the Word

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A Trustworthy Interpretation

Rightly Handling the Word

A trustworthy interpretation must recognize the God's intimate engagement with humanity.



A Trustworthy Interpretation

Lean Not on Your Own Understanding

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

A Trustworthy Interpretation

Lean Not on Your Own Understanding

What she
thinks
she's
saying.



What he
thinks
he's
hearing.

What
she says.

What he
hears.

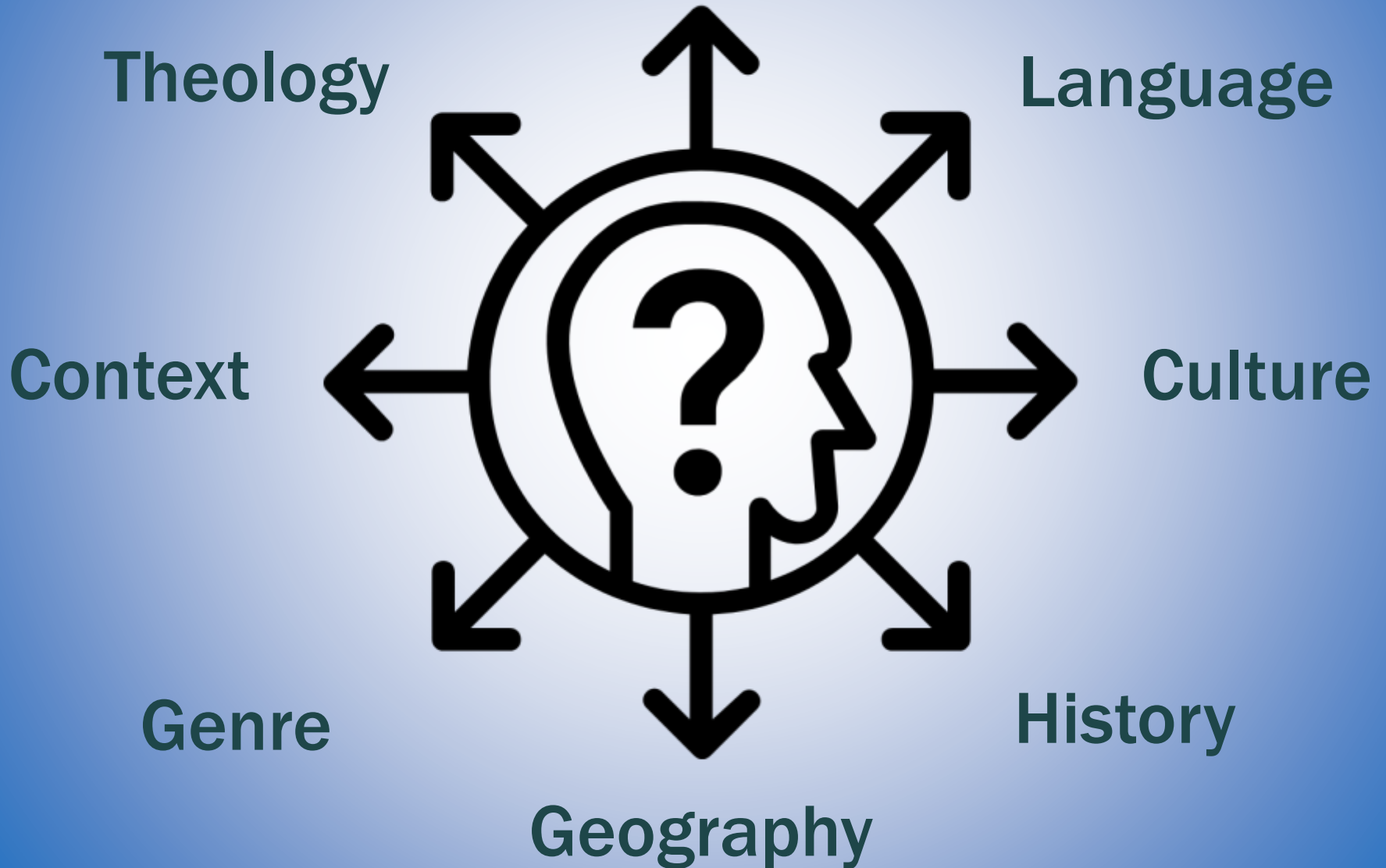
A Trustworthy Interpretation

Lean Not on Your Own Understanding



10,000 possibilities for the right combination.

UNDERSTANDING



A Trustworthy Interpretation

UNDERSTANDING

Language:

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
(John 1:1)*

“Word” = λόγος or Logos

A Trustworthy Interpretation

UNDERSTANDING

Language:

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
(John 1:1)*

4605 λόγος

• λόγος, ου, ὁ (verbal noun of λέγω in the sense 'pick'; Hom.+).

1. a communication whereby the mind finds expression, *word*

a. of utterance, chiefly oral.

α. as expression, *word* (oratorical ability plus exceptional performance frequent association of λ. and ἔργον 'deed'; a sim. formulation as early 33 μὴ λόγῳ μόνον ἀλλ' ἔργῳ; Just., A II, 4, 2 ἢ λόγῳ ἢ ἔργῳ and D. 35, 7 λόγῳ Lk 24:19; pl. of Moses Ac 7:22 (the contrast expressed w. a verb Ch Apollordorus, a benefactor in Cyzicus, a flourishing city in Phrygia; sin IKourion 32, 8; without contrast Diod. S. 13, 101, 3 ἄνδρας λόγῳ δυνατούς Benefactor 339-43). Cp. Ro 15:18; 2 Cor 10:11; Col 3:17; 2 Th 2:17

A Trustworthy Interpretation

UNDERSTANDING

Culture:

“When the redeemer said to Boaz, ‘Buy it for yourself,’ he drew off his sandal.” (Ruth 4:8)

PRINCIPLE & APPLICATION

A Trustworthy Interpretation

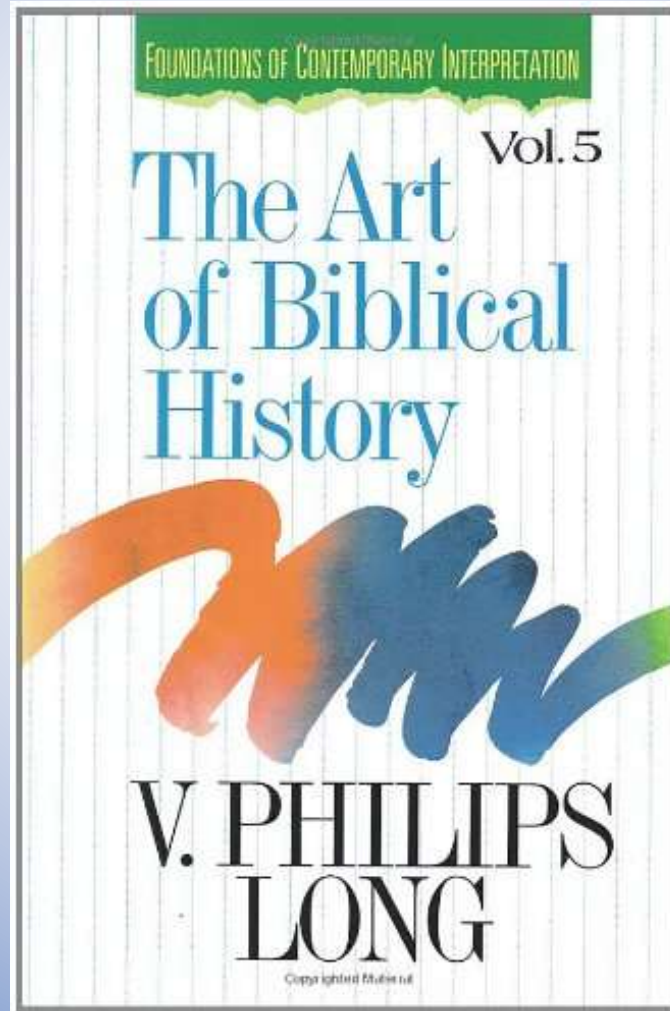
UNDERSTANDING

History:

“There are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.” (John 21:25)

A Trustworthy Interpretation

UNDERSTANDING



A Trustworthy Interpretation

UNDERSTANDING



A Trustworthy Interpretation

UNDERSTANDING

Geography:

“[The disciples] *were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them.*” (Mark 10:32)

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UNDERSTANDING

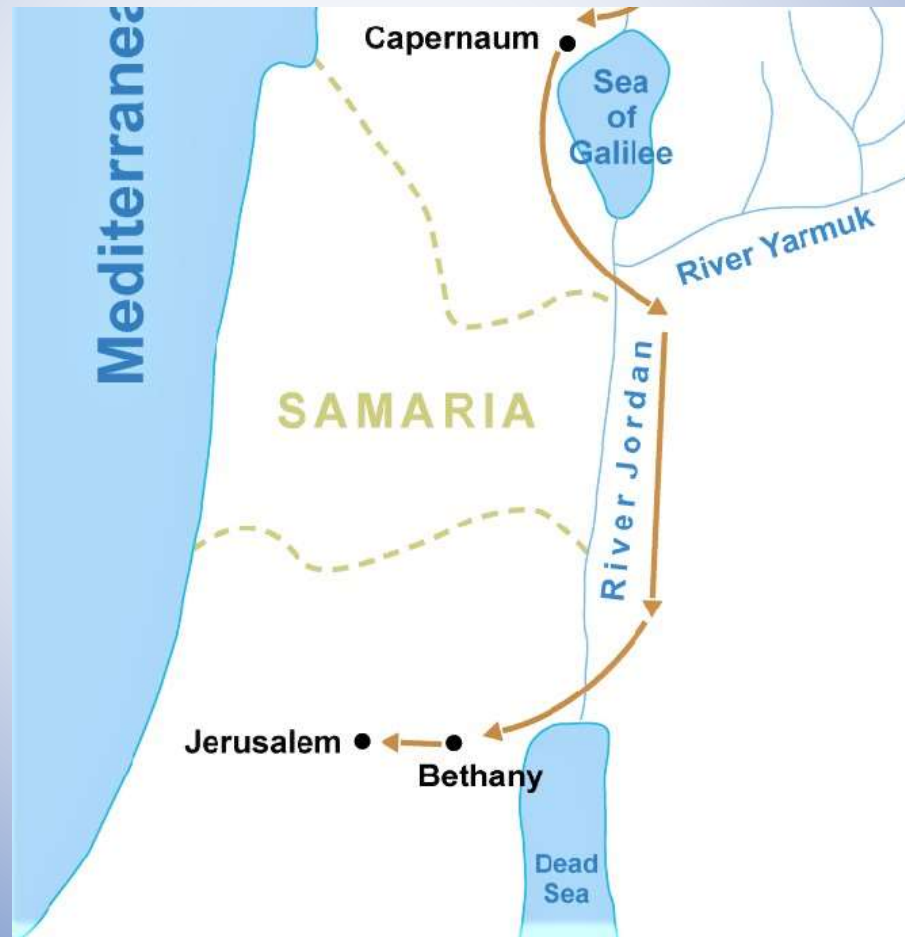
Geography:



A Trustworthy Interpretation

UNDERSTANDING

Geography:



A Trustworthy Interpretation

UNDERSTANDING

Genre:

- *Narrative/Story* (Genesis, Ruth)
- *History* (Genesis, 1 Samuel, Acts)
- *Law* (Leviticus, Numbers)
- *Poetry/Song* (Psalms, *Song of Miriam*)
- *Wisdom* (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job)
- *Prophetic* (i.e., Isaiah, Hosea)
- *Gospels* (I.e., Matthew, John)
- *Epistles* (I.e., Ephesians, 2 Peter)
- *Apocalyptic* (i.e., Daniel, Revelation)

A Trustworthy Interpretation

UNDERSTANDING

Genre:

We can still interpret God's Word "literally," understanding that the Bible frequently communicates literal truths through non-literal means (i.e. figures of speech, poetry, etc.).

A Trustworthy Interpretation

UNDERSTANDING

Context:

“There is no God.” (2 Samuel 7:22)

“[David said], ‘You are great, O LORD God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you.’” (2 Samuel 7:22)

A Trustworthy Interpretation

UNDERSTANDING

Theology:

“[Paul said], ‘I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.’” (Acts 20:27)

A Trustworthy Interpretation

UNDERSTANDING

Theology:

Jesus Christ

The Trinity

Love

Heaven

Holy Spirit

End Times

Atonement

Salvation

The Fall

Grace

Hell

Israel

Creation

The Law

Sanctification

Sin

Forgiveness

Justice

The Church

Providence

Worship

A Trustworthy Interpretation

UNDERSTANDING

Theology:

“Be aware of how important it is to eventually get an overall grasp of the continuity and progression within the Scripture itself. Scripture becomes its own best interpreter and for this you need the larger picture of the collection as a whole.” –

– The Christian History Institute

A Trustworthy Interpretation

Your Toolbox For Trustworthy Interpretation

- **Study Bibles**
- **Concordances**
- **Greek & Hebrew Lexicons**
- **Commentaries**
- **Dictionaries/Encyclopedias**
- **Bible Maps**
- **Books on Bible history, culture, etc.**

A Trustworthy Interpretation

Your Toolbox For Trustworthy Interpretation

Where to find these tools:

- **The Union Church Library**
- **Websites**
 - biblestudytools.com/library
 - biblegateway.com/resources
 - biblehub.com

A Trustworthy Interpretation

Your Toolbox For Trustworthy Interpretation

Where to find these tools:

- **Apps**
 - **Search “Bible Study” in iTunes or Google Play stores.**
- **Software**
 - **Logos**
 - **Bibleworks**



The Divine Interpreter



A Trustworthy Interpretation

The Divine Interpreter

*“We impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.”
(1 Corinthians 2:13)*

“Scripture cannot be subject to merely human interpretation, because it is inspired by the Spirit and so requires an interpretation inspired by the Spirit.”

– Richard Bauckham

A Trustworthy Interpretation

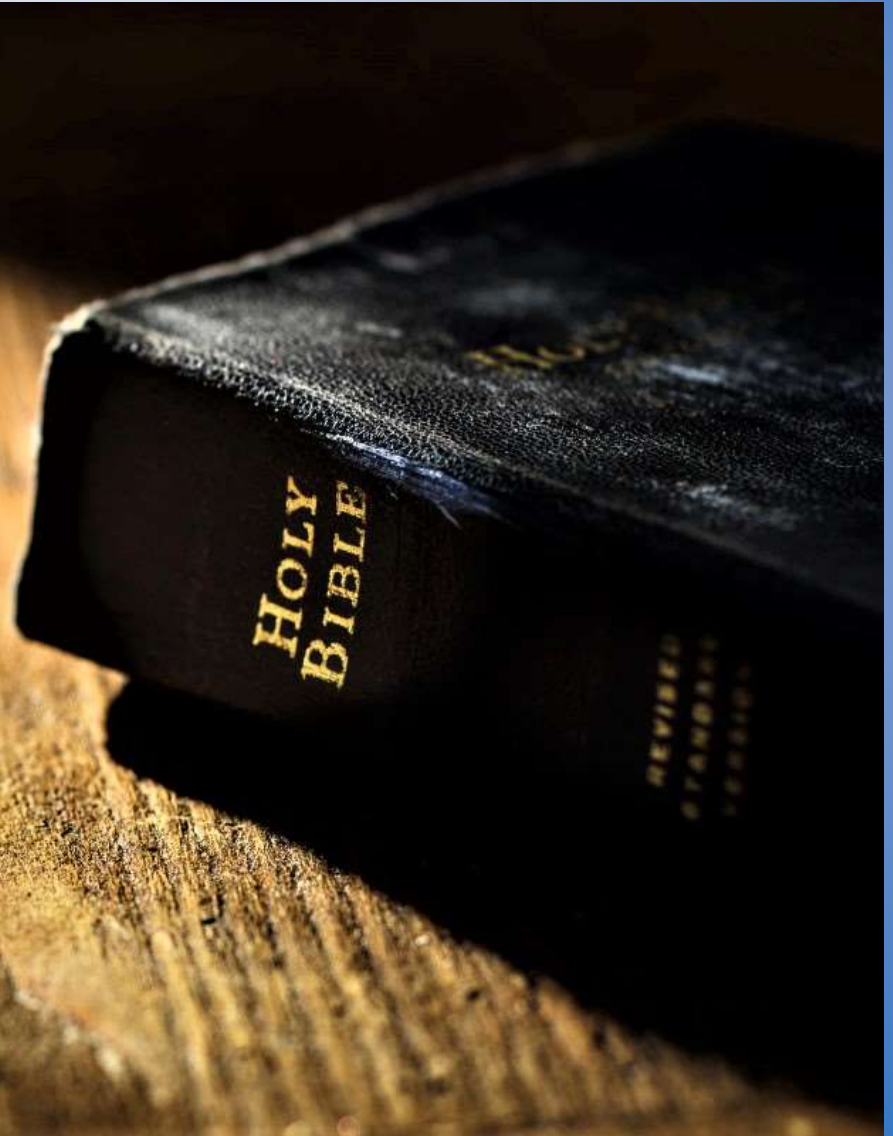
The Divine Interpreter

To achieve a trustworthy interpretation:

- **We must pray.**
- **We must listen.**
- **We must humble ourselves.**
- **We must ask God to reveal his meaning.**
- **We must study and apply his meaning.**
- **We must live out the Word and obey him.**
- **We must do all things in love.**

A Trustworthy Interpretation

“Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.”
(Jeremiah 15:16)



A Trustworthy Interpretation

