

# 7 SHATTERPROOF PRINCIPLES

## - UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE -

*There are many people who believe that the Bible can be made to support any idea, belief, philosophy, actions or words. To a certain degree they are correct. As long as there are no rules of interpretation the Bible and ANY BOOK for that matter, can be made to mean and represent anything that suits individual tastes and preferences. Fortunately, for the sincere hearted who are honestly trying to understand the Bible, there are seven **INHERENT (BUILT-IN)** interpretation principles which determine whether the Bible will be understood by the person reading it.*

- 1 **CONTRADICTION** - The only way to prove that the Bible contradicts itself is to refuse to let the Bible explain itself.
- 2 **CONTEXT** - A TEXT without CONTEXT is a PRETEXT to reject TEXT.
- 3 **MOTIVE** - The motive for reading the Bible determines whether a person will understand or misunderstand the Bible.
  - a) the wrong motive for reading the Bible = wrong understanding or misunderstanding of the Bible
  - b) the right motive for reading the Bible = right or correct understanding of the Bible
- 4 **CHRIST** – The reflection of God’s character is seen in Jesus Christ as stated by Himself and revealed in His life. Any interpretation of the Bible that claims to represent the character of God must be compared to the character of Christ to be tested for truthfulness.
- 5 **REASON** – If a high opinion of human reason is cherished and exalted the reasoning of God in the Bible cannot be appreciated or understood.
- 6 **GUIDANCE** - The Person Who inspired the Bible is the Person who must be communicated with in prayer in order to understand the Bible.
- 7 **EXPERIENCE** - The test of personal experience will shed light on the Bible if there is a willingness to practice the right principles of the Bible.