

overly biased. Third, use more than one translation so you can see where there might be differences. Fourth, be aware there are problems with each Version. Usually recommended are the New American Standard Bible (NASB) and the New International Bible (NIV). The NASB tries to stay as close to a word for word translation. The problem with this is that no language can be word-for-word translated. The NASB trashes idioms and begins to take on Greek sentence structure, but makes for an excellent study bible. The NIV tries to translate the original intent, or thought of the author, which is what one is trying to achieve, but this is subjective and is hard to study from when comparing to the original Greek. Comparing the two to each other can easily give one the best of both worlds, however, which ever translation you prefer, keep in mind guideline five: read the introduction or explanation of the translators. They sometimes do strange things, like move verbs to the beginning of a sentence in order to express the command or imperative mode of the Greek tense. In other words, do not assume you know what is going on until you read the directions.

Nehemiah 8:8 -- *And they read from the book, from the law of God, [translating to give the sense](#) so that they understood the reading.*

3. A BIBLE-BASED CHURCH

Ephesians 4:11-12 -- *And [He gave some as](#) apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and [teachers](#), for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, [to the building up of the body of Christ](#).*

Churches today come in all sorts of flavors: some are geared for outreach, some to entertain, some appeal to the young and some use special programs to gather the masses. But, the church of the first century was built according to the pattern set down by God, in order to instruct people in the proper way to approach Him in worship and to teach them to understand His will by studies in the Scriptures. One constantly needs proper encouragement, teaching and guidance, and one will only get it in a church set up for these purposes. A church not properly set up will not achieve an understanding of the mind of God and this can prove disastrous to spiritual growth.

2 Peter 3:15-16 -- *And regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the*

Although the fulfillment of certain prophecies are ongoing (like the promise of God to bless Abraham in many nations), to extend the intent of prophecies into the present or future, is to go beyond what the prophets clearly intended. Most had a first century target.

Acts 3:24 -- *And likewise, [all the prophets](#) who have spoken, from Samuel and his successors onward, also [announced these days](#).*

Types and Antitypes. There is nothing in any writing of man that displays the incredible hand of God like the use of types, the indication of something greater to come, foreshadowing various antitypes. Again one has to let the Word of God determine which is what. Some examples are: Melchizedek being a type of Jesus, who is the antitype (Hebrews 6:20 - 7:3); the tabernacle being a type of heavenly things (Hebrews 8:5); and the flood being a type of Christian baptism (1 Peter 3:21).

Some religious faiths believe that the Bible should always be taken literally. This is something you cannot do in almost every language, and especially in the English or the Greek of the New Testament. Thus interpretation must consider the following:

Figurative Language. A figure is a way of dressing something up to emphasize it. Thus, the following types of language are used:

Metaphor - an *implied* comparison. In Matthew 9:36-38, Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few," implying that the multitude was ready to be taught, as a harvest is ripe for reaping.

Allegory - Often referred to as an *extended metaphor*. It is an emphasis of truth that is dressed up as a fictitious, or a freely invented story. The term "figure," from the Greek word *meteschematiza* [*meta* - change, *schema* - outward form) means to change the form of something. This can be used either to **reveal** something by comparison, or to **disguise** something, as is seen in John 10:1-6.

Simile - An *expressed comparison* of a figure of truth by the use of the adverbs: *like, as, so, etc.*, as in Matthew 10:16 or Luke 11:44.