



## Bible Study Reform pt. 2

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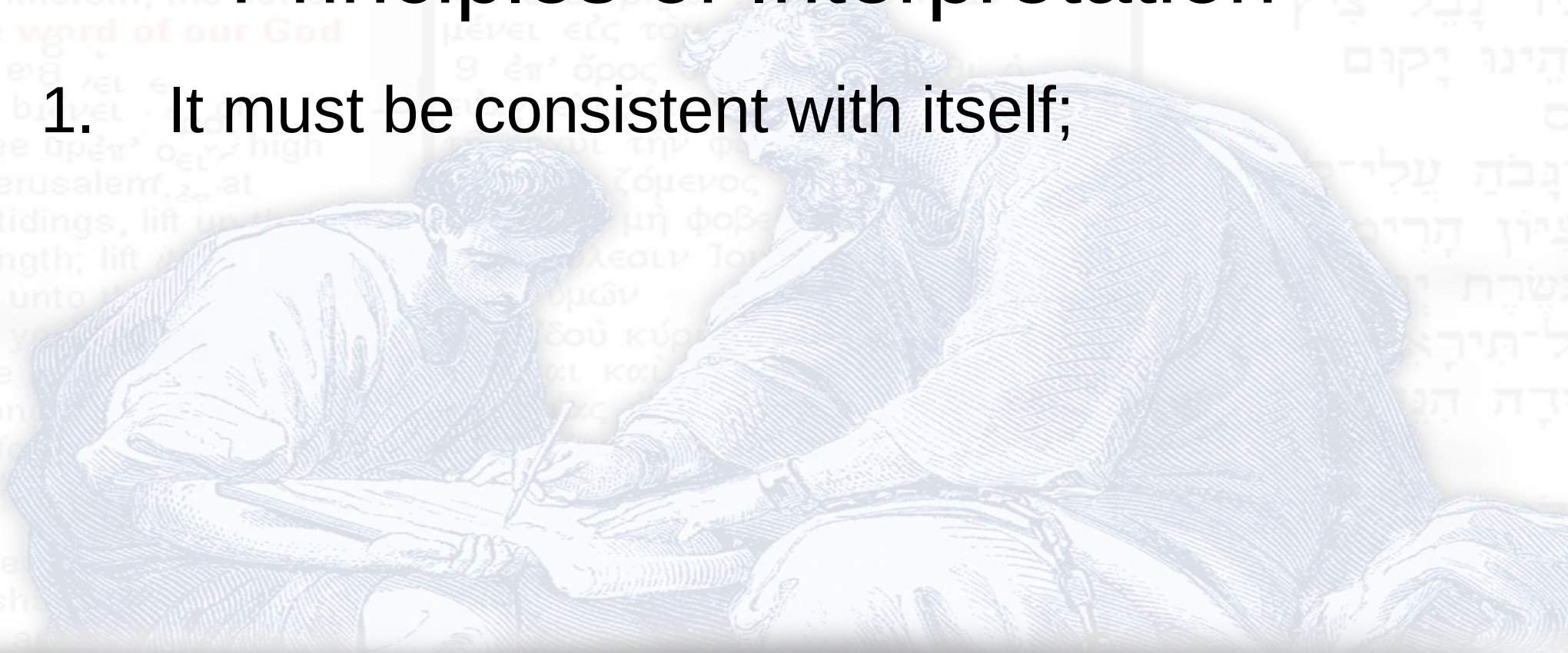
# Principles of Interpretation

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# Principles of Interpretation

1. It must be consistent with itself;



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Example: 1Ti 2:15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

but she will be kept safe through the childbearing, if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with sensibleness. (I Timothy 2:15, LITV)

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# Principles of Interpretation

2. The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed. (So the common person can understand - It must be adapted to our understanding, as it was given for man's instruction. We should study the Scriptures for ourselves, and ascertain if every apparent contradiction can not be harmonized.

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# Principles of Interpretation

The truths most plainly revealed in the Bible have been involved in doubt and darkness by learned men, who, with a pretense of great wisdom, teach that the Scriptures have a mystical, a secret, spiritual meaning not apparent in the language employed. These men are false teachers. It was to such a class that Jesus declared: "Ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God." Mark 12:24. **The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed.** (cont) {GC 598.3}

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# Principles of Interpretation

Christ has given the promise: "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine." John 7:17. If men would but take the Bible as it reads, if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error. {GC 598.3}

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# Principles of Interpretation

3. Language is to be interpreted according to the subject matter of discourse.



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### 3. Language is to be interpreted according to the subject matter of discourse.

- Prophecy - you would expect the use of symbols, for the subjects may not even exist yet,
- Lessons (Like Jesus or Paul's teachings) - you would expect illustrations, allegories, parables, literal language with spiritual meanings, etc.
- Songs/poetry - personification, parallelism, idioms, expressions, obscure or a wide latitude in definitions of words, to make synonyms or antonyms work, etc
- History or biography - literal use of language

# Principles of Interpretation

4. Language is to be interpreted if it can be, as to not conflict with sound philosophy, matters of fact, the nature of things, or immutable justice. Truth may be above or beyond reason, but is not contrary to reason.

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## 4. Language not to conflict with sound philosophy ...

Our reasoning powers were given us for use, and God desires them to be exercised. "Come now, and let us reason together" (Isaiah 1:18), He invites us. In reliance upon Him we may have wisdom to "refuse the evil, and choose the good." Isaiah 7:15; James 1:5. {Ed 231.1}

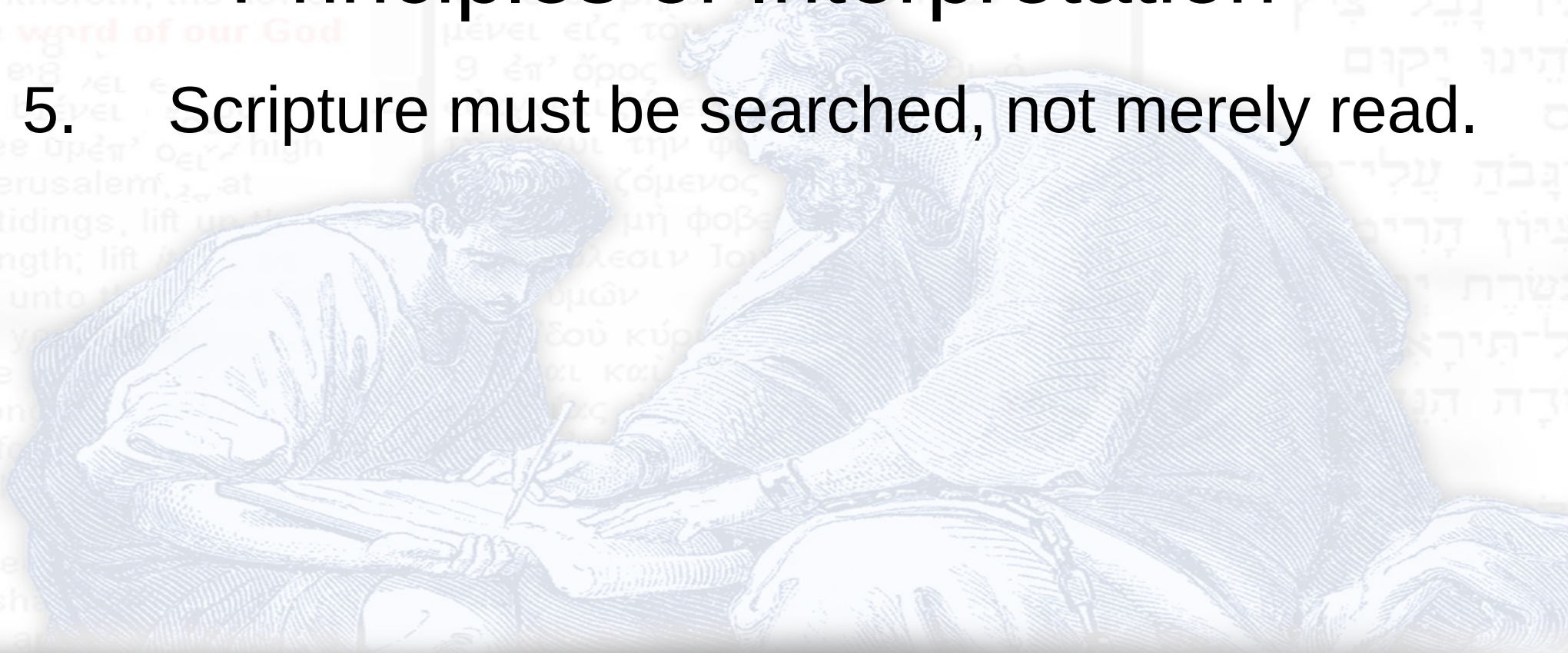
## 4. Language not to conflict with sound philosophy ...

God has given us the precious endowment of reason and intellect, and we shall be held accountable for our mistakes if we do not use the mind in earnest study of the word of God. God has endowed us with capabilities whereby we may understand what is acceptable unto him. ...  
{ST, February 26, 1894 par. 8}



# Principles of Interpretation

5. Scripture must be searched, not merely read.



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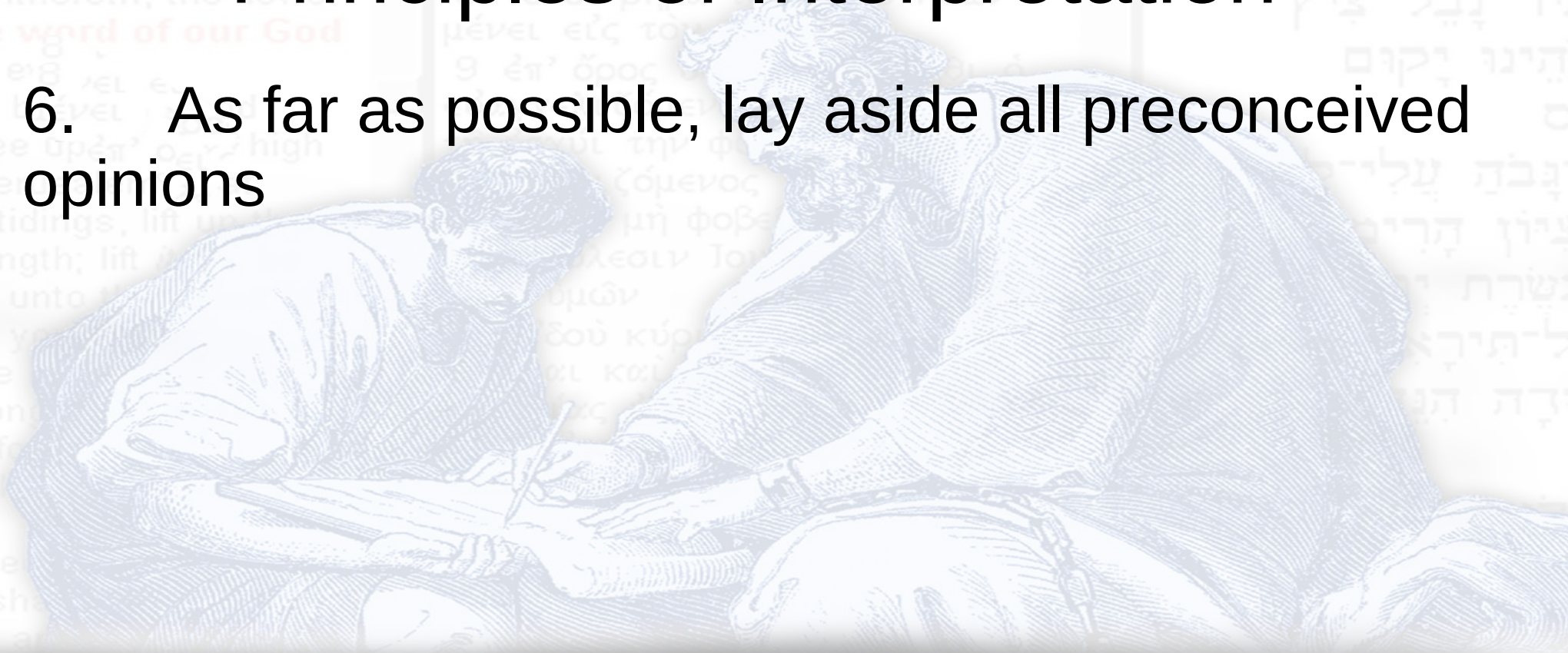
But there is altogether too much skimming over the surface. There is a mine of precious ore, hitherto only in the possession of a very few. A careful and thorough digging will put us in possession of untold resources, ... {RH, August 13, 1959 par. 18}

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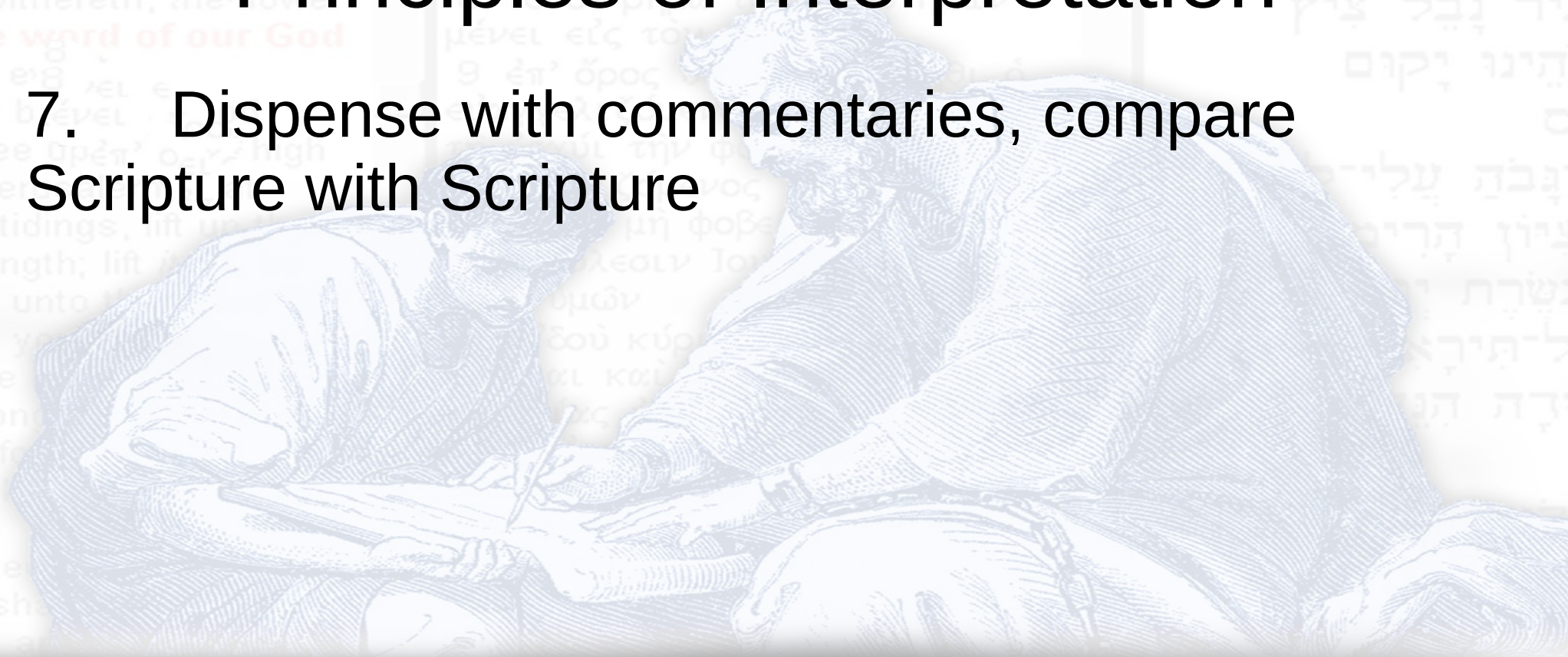
6. As far as possible, lay aside all preconceived opinions



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# Principles of Interpretation

7. Dispense with commentaries, compare  
Scripture with Scripture



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## 7. Dispense with commentaries, compare Scripture with Scripture

"He (Zwingli) submitted himself to the Bible as the word of God, the only sufficient, infallible rule. He saw that it must be its own interpreter. He dared not attempt to explain Scripture to sustain a preconceived theory or doctrine, but held it his duty to learn what is its direct and obvious teaching." {GC 173.2}

## 7. Dispense with commentaries, compare Scripture with Scripture

"The Holy Scriptures ought to be explained by other and clearer texts;" (second Diet of Spires, Confession of Protestant Princes) {GC 203.1}

"Following his rule of making Scripture its own interpreter, Miller learned that a day in symbolic prophecy represents a year" (Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6); {GC 324.3}



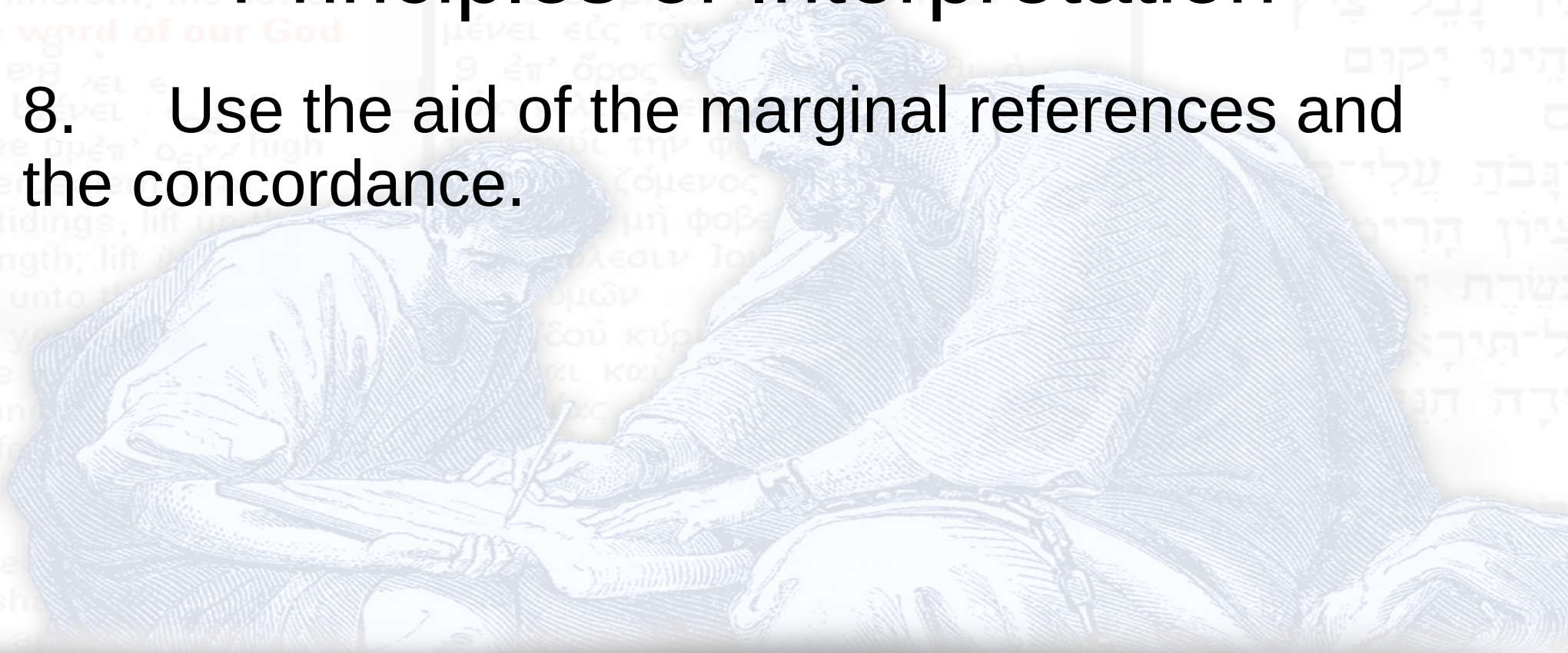
## 7. Dispense with commentaries, compare Scripture with Scripture

"The work of explaining the Bible by the Bible itself is the work that should be done by all our ministers who are fully awake to the times in which we live."--Letter 376, 1906, p. 7.

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8. Use the aid of the marginal references and the concordance.

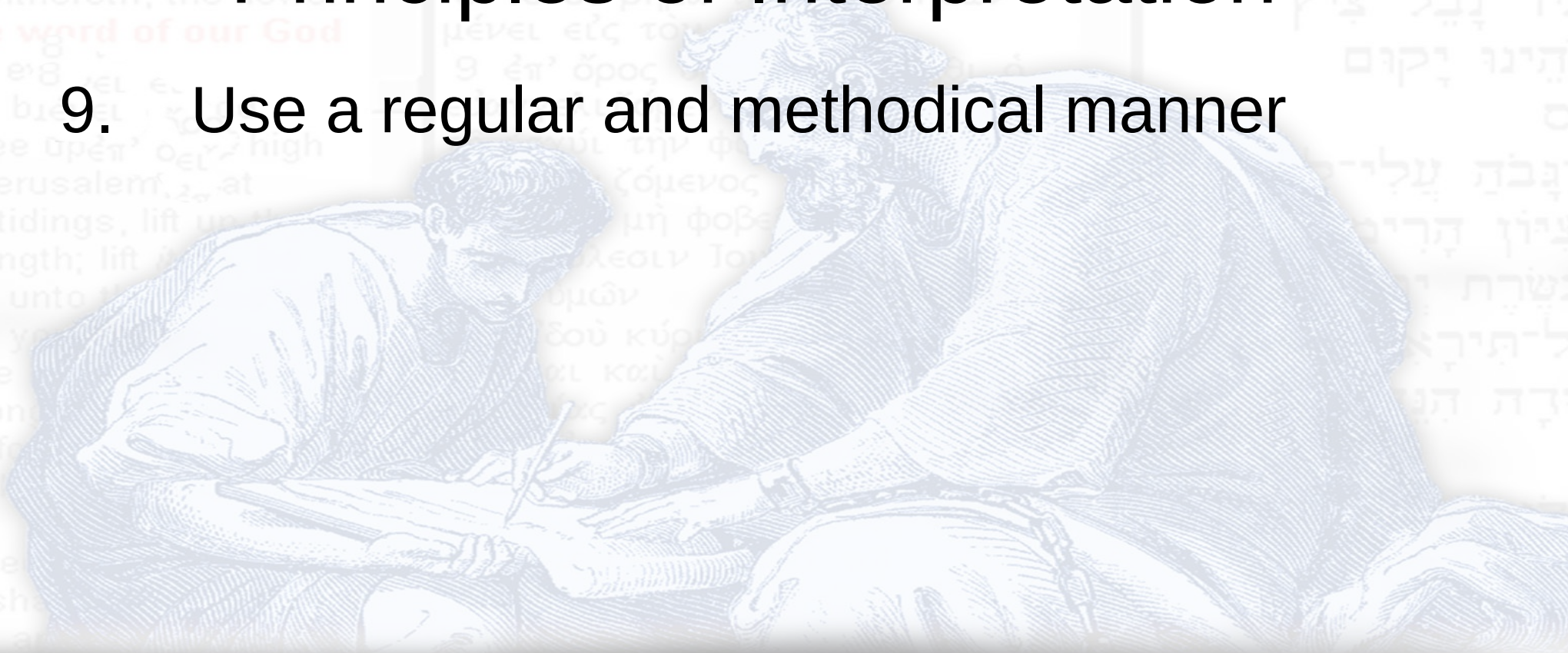


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# Principles of Interpretation

## 9. Use a regular and methodical manner



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# Principles of Interpretation

10. Proceed no faster than the meaning of the several passages is clearly unfolded



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# Principles of Interpretation

11. Compare it with every other text which seems to have any reference to the matter under consideration and be able to harmonize them. (since it is the same author that wrote all of it)

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# Principles of Interpretation

- 12. Every word should be permitted to have its proper bearing upon the subject of the text

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# Principles of Interpretation

- 13. Respect to be shown to the purpose, the design of the writer. There may be a theme, a secondary theme, or point being brought out in a book, chapter or verse

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# Prophets at Times, Borrow Words of Scripture

Example: “<sup>6</sup>And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. <sup>7</sup>Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. <sup>8</sup>Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. <sup>9</sup>But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? <sup>10</sup>**Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.’**  
**The observance of holidays in this country is a great evil.”**  
{1SAT 286.2}

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Ga 4:3-5, 21 <sup>3</sup>Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: <sup>4</sup>But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, <sup>5</sup>To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. ... <sup>21</sup>Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?

Ga 4:10, 11 <sup>10</sup>Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. <sup>11</sup>I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

Ga 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. <sup>2</sup>Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised,

Christ shall profit you nothing. <sup>3</sup>For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. <sup>4</sup>Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

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# Principles of Interpretation

14. Study with prayer and an earnest desire to know and practice the truth

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# Principles of Interpretation

The End

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