Salvation Clarity: What Does It Take to Be Saved?
*** 5 Essential Interpretation Principles ****

Last Week:

Confusing Bible Passages (often used as support for eternal salvation)

Why All the Confusion About Salvation?

1. ***Poor Understanding of Bible Terminology***
   a. *Using different terms for the same experience ("saved")*
   b. *Using synonyms as separate ideas (e.g. have faith, believe, trust)*
   c. *Using unclear or inaccurate phrases as separate steps*
2. ***Poor Bible Study Methods***
   a. *Accepting apparent contradictions as additional steps or conditions*
   b. *Assuming a word has only one meaning ("saved")*
   c. *Being sloppy with terms (we think & study with words)*
   d. *Choosing unclear verses over clear verses*
   e. *Drawing conclusions before studying thoroughly*
   f. *Engaging unqualified teachers (1 Tim 1:3-7; James 3:1)*
   g. *Failing to compare the whole of Scripture (2 Tim 2:15)*
   h. *Forgetting that the Bible is the final authority, not men's teachings*
   i. *Neglecting to define and understand terms*
   j. *Ignoring the immediate context (verses before & after)*
   k. *Repeating teachings without studying them oneself (especially pastors/teachers)*
   l. *Using any curriculum / materials without reviewing them for biblical accuracy (good materials are rare…)*

5 Essential Interpretation Principles
(These are NOT optional to avoid error!)

1. ***What Is _____?***
   a. Identify passages that ***clearly*** state truth
   b. Use the ***clear*** to clarify the ***confusing*** or the ***difficult***
   c. Designate "North Star" or "anchor" verses/passages
      1) *The **nature** of "North Star" or "anchor" verses:*
         - *These verses state **what I know to be true**…*
         - *…**whether or not** I understand the confusing passage.*
      2) *The **two options** using "North Star" verses:*
         1. Is this passage saying the ***same thing*** a ***different way****?*

            OR

         2. Is this passage talking about ***something else*** and not addressing what it appears to address?

"North Star" Verses for Salvation

John 3:(16-)18 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that ***whoever believes*** in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. [17] "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. [18] "***He who believes*** in Him is not condemned; but ***he who does not believe*** is condemned already, ***because he has not believed*** in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Acts 16:(30-)31 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" [31] So they said, "***Believe*** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and ***you will be saved***, you and your household."

Romans 4:5 But to him who does not work but ***believes*** on Him who justifies the ungodly, ***his faith [belief] is accounted for righteousness***,

2. ***What Is _____?***
   a. Is this concept clearly ***stated elsewhere*** in the Bible?
   b. Am I building a primary truth on a single passage?
   c. How much ***forced interpretation*** does this obscure passage require to make it mean what you think?

3. ***What Is the _____?***
   a. Have I read the context of the passage (before & after)?
   b. Do I know the context of the book (recipients, purpose, layout, points)?
   c. Does my conclusion align with the context of the entire Bible?

      2 Peter 1:20-21 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, [21] for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke [as they were] moved by the Holy Spirit.

4. ***What Is the _____ setting?***
   a. How was this understood ***when*** this was written?
   b. Am I reading the NT ***into*** the OT? [progressive revelation…]

5. ***What Is the _____ setting?***
   a. Am I understanding this text as the original recipients would have understood it?
   b. Am I reading my own perspective, understanding, and current culture into the text?