

The
GOLDEN KEY

BEN M. BOGARD



Lesson Five

You were instructed at the beginning of lesson 4 to spend at least 30 minutes studying the chart at the end of the textbook. You will be tested on portions of the chart during the test for this lesson. Lesson test is open book so you may use the chart at the end of the textbook which you can enlarge in order to have a clearer view of it than the one in the test questions. Dr. VBK

You may access the chart at any time by clicking [HERE](#).

Lecture 5

Rule of Interpretation

WHO IS SPEAKING?

TO WHOM IS HE SPEAKING?

ABOUT WHAT IS HE SPEAKING?

WHEN WAS HE SPEAKING?

You may access the chart at any time by clicking [HERE](#).

Rule of Interpretation

From this study of the Scriptures, we have learned the rule of interpretation. This rule applied is a *key to the Scriptures* that never fails to unlock every passage, however mysterious and uncertain it may be. Insert the key and open the door. Here it is:

Always use the following:

1. *Who is speaking?*
2. *To whom is he speaking?*
3. *About what is he speaking?*
4. *When was he speaking?*

Who is speaking?

Who is speaking? Sometimes it is God speaking. Sometimes it is the devil speaking, for the words of the devil are quoted a number of times. Sometimes the Pharisees or Sadducees are speaking and generally they will be against the truth. Sometimes it is a well meaning uninspired man speaking. By carefully looking, you can determine *who* is speaking. If you fail to observe this rule you may find yourself using the words of the devil to prove your doctrine.

To whom is he speaking?

To whom is he speaking? The words may be spoken to a *church* and apply only to a church. They may be spoken to some *individual* and do not apply to anyone else. The words

may be spoken to *sinner*s and to no one else. To fail to observe this rule means you will be badly confused.

About what is he speaking?

What is the subject being discussed, or about what is he speaking? The Bible is not all on one subject but many subjects are discussed. Look to see what the writer is talking about. *You cannot talk or write intelligently unless you are talking or writing about something.* This is true with Bible writers. The *forty men* who, under inspiration, wrote the Bible, discussed many different subjects.

When was he speaking?

When was it spoken or written? What was said or written might be for only a specific time. For instance, the Bible says they told that *“his disciples stole”* His body and this is *“commonly reported until this day.”* That, evidently, means that it was reported up until the time the writer was living. So it is with many passages. The time is important.

The Bible should be read with the same *common sense* that one uses to read a book or newspaper. **Just let it say what it wants to say.**

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QUESTIONS

1. What is the rule of interpretation? _____

2. Why is it important to know who is speaking? _____

Give an illustration of misinterpretation of the Scriptures
by failing to note this rule. _____

3. Why is it important to know to whom the words are
spoken? _____

Illustrate with Scripture. _____

4. Give example to show the importance of knowing the
subject under discussion. _____

5. Why is it important to know when the person was
speaking? _____

6. How should the Bible be read? _____

7. Choose Scriptures from the Bible and apply the rule to them as examples of its application for understanding the Bible.