

## Priority Principles for Interpreting the Bible

Jesus says, some things are more important than others. When determining how the scripture applies to the modern day—these matters have priority.

- THE GOLDEN RULE

“In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets” (Matthew 7:12)

- MERCY OVER SACRIFICE

“If you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless” (Matthew 12:7; see also Matthew 9:13; Hosea 6:6).

- LOVE FOR GOD AND NEIGHBOR

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:34-40).

- THE WEIGHTIER MATTERS OF THE LAW

“You tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced, without neglecting the others” (Matthew 23:23).