

General and Common Directions

16. Francis Roberts in his *Key of the Bible* (4th ed.; London), pp. 5 ff., recommends as special and peculiar rules for scholars:

1. The competent understanding of the original languages.
2. The prudent use of Logick.
3. The Subservient help of the arts, as Rhetoric, Natural Philosophy, etc.
4. The benefit of humane histories to illustrate and clear the theme.
5. The conferring of ancient translations with the originals.
6. The prudent use of the most orthodox, learned, and judicious Commentators.

As against the more general and common directions for “Christians of all sorts, learned and unlearned”:

1. Beg wisdom of the only wise God.
2. Labor sincerely after a gracious spirit.
3. Peruse the Scripture with a humble self-denying heart.
4. Familiarize the Scripture to thyself by constant and methodical exercise therein.
5. Understand Scripture according to the theological analogy or certain rule of faith and love.

(Biblical Criticism and Heresy in Milton by George Newton Conklin, Columbia University, New York: King’s Crown Press, 1949, 100-101; From Notes, Ch. II, No. 16, Text Modified)