TORRE DEL MAR CHURCH BIBLE STUDY
INTERPRETING THE SCRIPTURES

1 Peter 2.19-25

If you were ever in doubt about the problem of trying to follow the Bible literally, this passage should cure you. It is an example of the fact that the scriptures were written by particular people at a particular time in history to address particular circumstances. Here is a passage that assumes that slavery, for instance, is an acceptable practice.

Although the passage is meant to portray the example of Jesus in the face of violence and abusive behaviour, it is not hard to see how such scripture has been misused to justify an inhuman practice - which is precisely what slave-owners in the American colonies and the rulers of apartheid used to do.

Some questions

1. How does such a passage make you feel about the problem of interpreting the Bible?

2. What do you think is important about the way we go about making interpretations?

John 10.1-10 –

The problem of discerning false and even dangerous leadership within the Church has always been with us. John is attempting to address that problem by offering some suggestions for discernment. The passage is part of a much larger one whose focus is Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The Church is to measure all ministry by the model of Jesus' life and ministry.

1. How practical are John's suggestions for telling the difference