

I. Introduction

A. *Define necessary inference*

1. Explicit: "I like ice cream"
2. Implied: You see me eating lots of ice cream with a smile on my face, when I'm done, I get some more, when I'm done with that, I lick the bowl
3. When you understand what is implied, then you infer it
4. An inference is reasoning from facts, or premises, using rules of rational thought, to a conclusion
5. Example: $1 + 1 = 2$ loaves of bread

B. *Contrast necessary with possible inference*

1. When your conclusion is justified, when it is the only conclusion that can reasonably be reached from the evidence, then it is a necessary conclusion.
2. But sometimes there are more than one possible conclusions: Maybe I was hypnotized, or I was acting in a play, and I actually hate ice cream.
3. If we misunderstand the evidence, or mistake a possible conclusion is a necessary one, we make a mistake, and we can say we jumped to a conclusion

C. *God reveals information to us in this way also*

1. Berkhof quote: " 'The knowledge of God is all-comprehending and is always conscious knowledge. In giving man His word, He was not only perfectly aware of all that was said, but also of all that this implied. He knew the inferences that are deduced from Scripture by unavoidable inference and more largely still from the comparison of the various Scripture statements among themselves were foreseen by infinite wisdom in the very act of supernaturally inspiring the record from which they are inferred; and the revealer not only knew that men would deduce such consequences, but designed that they should do so.' (Inspiration of the Scriptures, p. 585) Therefore, not only the express statements of Scripture, but its implications as well, must be regarded as the Word of God." – Is this true?

D. *Preview Lesson*

1. See how Jesus and the inspired writers of the New Testament used necessary inference to understand Old Testament teaching

2. Discuss the limitations of human reasoning, and what the expectations of God are for us
3. Use the principle of necessary inference to answer several religious questions of our day

II. In the Bible

A. *Woman is subject to man*

1. Stated explicitly in the New Testament
 - a) (1 Cor 14:34) Claims that the old law teaches this also
 - b) The OT nowhere states this explicitly, but it is necessarily implied
 - c) 1 Tim. 2:12-15 – Goes back to creation, woman created for man
2. The Law says it only by necessary inference
 - a) A necessary conclusion carries the same authority as a explicitly expressed statement

B. *Marriage Law (Matt. 19:3-12)*

1. Based on necessary conclusions from time of creation

C. *Christ to be the Son of God*

1. The Scriptures taught of Christ (Jn. 5:39), but not everything was explicitly stated
2. Matt. 22:41-46 A necessary conclusion from Ps. 110:1 was that the Christ was to be greater even than David

D. *Abraham and Melchizedek Heb. 7:1-14*

1. Necessary conclusions
 - a) Melchizedek is superior to Abraham
 - b) Melchizedek is superior to the Levitical priesthood
 - c) Christ is superior to OT priesthood
 - d) Law of Moses has been changed
2. Facts:
 - a) Abraham gave tithes to the priest Melchizedek
 - b) Melchizedek blessed Abraham
 - c) Abraham is superior to his descendant Levi and the Levitical priesthood
3. Rules of inference:
 - a) If one person pays tithes to another, then the one who receives the tithes is greater
 - b) If one person blesses another, then the one who receives the blessing is the lesser

c) If person A is greater than person B, and person B is greater than person C, then person A is greater than person C

4. Conclusions

a) Melchizedek was greater than Abraham

b) Melchizedek was greater than Levi

(1) Note that first conclusion is just as much a fact as the original facts and can be used for further reasoning

(2) Necessary inferences have the same authority as explicit commands and statements of scripture

c) The priesthood of Melchizedek is greater than that of Levi

5. Additional facts

a) The Christ is a priest after the order of Melchizedek

b) The Christ is from the tribe of Judah

c) The Levitical priesthood was established by the law of Moses

d) The law of Moses said nothing about a person from Judah being a priest

6. More Rules of Inference:

a) If the something that was previously against the law is now permitted, then the law has been changed

b) If the law says nothing about a practice, then that practice is against the law.

7. Conclusions

a) Christ is superior to the Levitical priesthood

b) Christ's priesthood was against the Law of Moses

c) The law of Moses has been changed

III. Is human reasoning trustworthy?

A. Prior incorrect conclusions can prevent proper understanding

1. 2 Cor. 3:14-15

2. Acts 13:27

B. The fact that the teachers of the Old and New Testament rebuke incorrect conclusions and expect the correct conclusions to be drawn indicates that we are able and responsible for drawing necessary conclusions and submitting to their authority

C. The general resurrection (Mt. 22:23-33)

1. Conclusion is drawn not from what is explicitly stated, but from what is necessarily implied by the tense of a verb
2. Necessary conclusions
 - a) People who have died physically still live in a real sense
 - b) We have a soul, a part of us that lives when our bodies are dead
 - c) There is a resurrection (Lk. 20:37)
3. The necessary conclusion was there and they should have understood it
 - a) They didn't know the Scriptures
 - b) They didn't know the power of God
 - c) Resulted in a mistake
 - d) They were expected to figure it out themselves

D. The leaven of the Sadducees Matt. 16:5-12

1. They reasoned, but came to the wrong conclusion
2. Jesus expected them to have figured it out properly by themselves
3. Why must we beware? Because their false conclusion can cause us to make false conclusions as well!

E. What comes out of the mouth defiles - Matt. 15:10-11, 15-18

1. Again Jesus expected them to understand the point He was making
2. He explained further to make it more clear

IV. Applications

A. The examples of Christ and the apostles deriving Spiritual truths from the Old Testament using necessary inference guide us in handling the whole Bible properly today.

1. "They leave us examples of how to study in order to understand God's will." – Maurice Barnett p. 36
2. Preview next lesson: Examples - binding and nonbinding

B. Types of necessary inferences

1. Deriving meaning from the context
2. Deriving meaning from the grammar
3. Using the process of elimination to derive meaning
4. Interpreting difficult passages using more plain passages

5. Deriving meaning from all the Bible has to say on a subject

6. Many other ways

C. Necessary conclusions have the same authority as direct commands and statements of Scripture

1. Are specific, and can include generic options

D. Current day applications

1. Jesus raised on the first day of the week (Lk. 24:1, 13, 21, 46)

2. Water baptism, not HS baptism (Acts 2:38; 10:47-48)

3. Baptism part of preaching Jesus (Acts 8)

E. Summary statement: A necessary inference reveals information by the authority of God. By this process we can understand many things that God wants us to know and do.