

Fourth, determine from usage in context whether the term is used to emphasize an enlargement from a smaller to a larger class, or from some members of a class to all members of the class.

Example: Acts 2:17 -- "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."

Fifth, determine from usage in context whether the term is used collectively or distributively.

(collectively would mean that at least one representative member of every subclass of the class is being spoken of, or one representative member from a proportion of subclasses sufficient to represent the whole class; distributively would mean that all members of every subclass of the class are being spoken of.)

Example: Acts 22:15 -- "For thou (Paul) shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard."

Example: Mark 1:5 -- "And there went out unto him (John the Baptist) all the land of Judaea and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins."

Example: Romans 1:8 -- "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world."

Example: Acts 26:4 -- "My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews."

- g. In connection with some problems of reconciling all Scriptures with the position herein presented, it should frankly be recognized that every position which is taken concerning so controversial an issue can be expected to have some problems which have not yet been resolved. However, problems do not in themselves constitute grounds for rejecting a view. The bases upon which the view rests must be examined to see whether they are sound. If one goes back and reexamines the scriptural grounds for the doctrine of predestination, he will be enabled to see that, given strong grounds for a doctrine, one need not view unresolved problems as barriers to belief in a doctrine, but as challenges which need further work. Often it has happened that Scriptures which have appeared to be major obstacles have been resolved with further light, additional time, and renewed reflection. Once again, it should be recalled that every view has some problems; and that the grounds for and not the exceptions to a view are the solid basis upon which faith can safely rest.