

Basic Hermeneutics

RIGHTLY HANDLING THE WORD OF TRUTH

Hermeneutics (proper interpretation) is important because...

IT ENABLES BELIEVERS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE BIBLE IS TEACHING THEM.

Without proper interpretation, how can Christ-followers properly understand what God is communicating to His children through His word? With hearts that are set on following God, believers should have a passionate desire to understand God's Word exactly as God intended it to be understood.

SCRIPTURE INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE!

Scripture works together as a whole to bring together one cohesive story, message, and understanding of who God is, and His purposes and work for His people and creation. Every word and theme of each passage has been inspired by God, and is therefore relevant to the whole text of Scripture and must be considered in the light of its entirety.

IT CONNECTS ANCIENT TEACHING TO MODERN CONTEXT.

Once original context has been understood, concepts and principles which are present in the original context are able to be applied to the reader's modern context. Since God does not change, His principles and teaching is applicable to all periods of history. It is the duty of all believers to seek out God's Word for truth.

IT LOOKS TO THE ORIGINAL CONTEXT OF THE SCRIPTURES.

Hermeneutics prompts the reader to look at the original history, audience, language, and context in which a passage of Scripture was originally written. This is imperative in gaining an understanding of the message which the original author conveyed to the original audience.

PROPER INTERPRETATION PREVENTS HERESY

Avoid Dangerous Practices

- Taking Scripture out of context
- Twisting Scripture to fit our narrative
- Skipping over convicting truths
- Ignoring difficult passages
- Searching for hidden codes/allegory
- Interpreting Scripture in a way that contradicts God's attributes

Avoid Dangerous Practices

- Comfortable Interpretation: Choosing culture's opinion over truth
- Blunting the Blade: Presenting Scripture in a less convicting way
- Self-righteous Pride: Personal opinion over God's opinion

**FALSE
TEACHING
IS
DANGEROUS**

Scripture Warns Against False Teaching

- [1 Timothy 6:2b-5](#)
- [2 Timothy 4:1-5](#)
- [2 Timothy 2:1-10](#)
- [Galatians 1:6-9](#)
- [2 Peter 3:14-18](#)
- [Matthew 18:6](#)

"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed." - Galatians 1:6-9

DEFINITIONS

SECULAR DEFINITION: INTERPRETATION

A method or principle of interpretation.

BIBLICAL DEFINITION: INTERPRETATION

The study of the principles of interpretation—both the grammatico-historical interpretation AND the practical application of that interpretation in the pulpit—is called hermeneutics.