

# Authorial Intent and The Biblical Text

## *What are we doing?*

Goal of bible interpretation is to determine the original meaning of the text this is called Exegesis: reading the meaning out of the text. The term *Hermeneutics* (Greek, *hermeneuo*, to interpret) is commonly employed to denote the *principles of scriptural interpretation*. The Greek word *exegesis*—that is, *exposition*—denotes the actual *work of interpretation*. Hermeneutics is, therefore, the *science* of interpretation, Exegesis, the *application* of this science to the word of God. The hermeneutical writer lays down general principles of interpretation; the exegetical writer uses these principles in the exposition of Scripture.

Authorial intent is the intended meaning by the author(s) of any communication, whether written, spoken, or communication through any means (such as body language) There is only one exact and absolute meaning to any communication and that is the one intended by the author. The recipient(s) of the communication must communicate must determine the intended meaning, using the principles of interpretation that result in an accurate understanding of the message being communication.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) wrote, "When I was a monk, I was an expert in allegories. I allegorized everything. But after lecturing on the Epistles of the Romans I came to have knowledge of Christ. For therein I saw that Christ is no allegory and I learned to know what Christ is

## *Why are we doing this?*

## The Need to Understand

**"Do you understand what you are reading?" Acts 8:30 NIV**

**"The levites..... They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read. Neh 8:7-8**

The bible was not written to us it was written for us. Example Jeremiah 29:11

Context: You do not claim the bible verse you claim the God behind the bible verse

Luther like Augustine, said that obscure passages are to be understood in light of clear passages. "Scripture is its own interpreter," he often stated. "This is the true method of interpretation which puts Scripture alongside of Scripture in a right and proper way" (*Luther's Works*, 3:334). Basic Bible Interpretation Dr. Roy Zuck

In the Reformation the Bible became the sole authority for belief and practice. The Reformers built on the literal approach of the Antiochene school and the Victorines. ). Basic Bible Interpretation Dr. Roy Zuck

## *How do we do this?*

Observation vs Interpretation What's the difference?

In observing what the Bible says, you probe; in interpretation, you mull. Observation is discovery; interpreting is digesting. Observation means depicting what is there, and interpretation is deciding what it means. The one is to explore, the other is to explain. Basic Bible Interpretation.

"What does God, through his human author, desire for the intended audience to understand when they receive the original text?" John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion.

Circumstances of the writings and the culture of the environment.

1. Who wrote the book
2. At what time/when it was written
3. What prompted the author to write the book.: what problems, situations or needs was he addressing.
4. What is the book all about, main subject or subjects.
5. To whom was the book written who were the first readers. Roy B. Zuck

