

STUDENT HANDOUT

SHEFFEY BIBLE COLLEGE

Course: Hermeneutics 101
Chapter 9 Student Handout

WORD STUDIES

Instructor: Dr. Ancel Presnell, Jr
Student Name: _____
Date: _____

WHAT YOU SHOULD LEARN FROM TODAY’S LECTURE

- Understand the purpose of word studies
 - Identify common word-study fallacies
 - Learn how to choose words for study
 - Understand semantic range
 - Apply context in interpretation
 - Accurately determine word meaning
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I. INTRODUCTION TO WORD STUDIES

Words function like puzzle pieces forming the meaning of Scripture.

Key Principle:
Word meaning is discovered from the author’s intent

Notes:

II. COMMON WORD-STUDY FALLACIES

Major errors to avoid in interpretation.

Key Principle:
Wrong methods produce wrong meanings

Notes:

III. CHOOSING YOUR WORDS CAREFULLY

Focus on important, repeated, figurative, or difficult words.

Key Principle:

Not every word requires study—focus on key terms

Romans 12:1–2 (KJV)

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Notes:

IV. DETERMINE WHAT THE WORD COULD MEAN

Identify the semantic range.

Key Principle:

A word has many possible meanings

Notes:

V. CONTEXT STUDIES

Context determines meaning.

Key Principle:

Context controls interpretation

Ephesians 4:29 (KJV)

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

Notes:

VI. DECIDE WHAT THE WORD DOES MEAN

Choose the meaning that best fits context.

Key Principle:

Only one meaning fits the passage

Notes:

VII. WORD STUDY EXAMPLE: “PRESENT”

Meaning in Romans 12:1 = to devote or dedicate to God.

Key Principle:

Believers are to fully give themselves to God

Notes:

CLOSING SUMMARY

Word studies help us understand Scripture accurately, but only when guided by proper method and context. The meaning of a word is always determined by how it is used in its passage, not by assumption or preference.

THINGS TO KNOW (EXAM ANCHORS)

- Word meaning is discovered
 - Context determines meaning
 - Avoid English-only fallacy
 - Avoid root fallacy
 - Avoid overload fallacy
 - Avoid word-count fallacy
 - Semantic range defined
 - One meaning per context
 - Choose words carefully
 - Use concordance tools
 - Circles of context
 - “Present” means devotion
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ASSIGNMENT

Read Chapter 10 in *Grasping God’s Word* in preparation for the next lecture.