

Hermeneutics

Lecture 3

Instructor: Dr. Mike Sage

Chapter 3: How to Read the Book — Sentences

Take Notes on a separate notebook/legal pad

What You Should Learn from Today's Lecture

- Understand why serious Bible reading requires effort.
- Recognize the difference between observation and interpretation.
- Identify key features to look for at the sentence level.
- Learn why details (words, verbs, conjunctions, pronouns) matter.
- Apply careful observation to Romans 12:1–2.

1. From “Baby Food” to “Meat” — The Need for Serious Reading

2. Serious Reading and the Love-Letter Illustration

3. Observation Before Interpretation

(Ask first: What does the text say?)

4. Things to Look for in Sentences

Write definitions, examples, and notes during lecture.

Repetition of Words

Contrasts

Comparisons

Lists

Cause and Effect

Figures of Speech

Conjunctions

Verbs (Tense / Active / Passive / Imperative)

Pronouns (Identify the Antecedent)

5. Example: Romans 12:1-2

Write observations only (not interpretation or application).

Closing Summary

- The Bible contains depth and substance.
- Careful reading requires time and discipline.
- Details unlock meaning.
- Observation must precede interpretation.
- Chapter 4 will move from sentences to paragraphs.

THINGS TO KNOW:

1. Observation is the first step in studying Scripture.
2. Serious reading requires rereading and careful attention to details.
3. Repetition signals emphasis in a passage.
4. Contrasts often appear through conjunctions such as “but.”
5. Lists should be examined for structure and grouping.
6. Cause-and-effect relationships reveal logical flow.
7. Conjunctions connect arguments and must not be skipped.
8. Imperative verbs often communicate commands.
9. Pronouns must be traced to their antecedents.
10. Romans 12:1–2 is the chapter’s primary example of sentence-level observation.
11. A question will be asked if you completed the assigned reading.