A person wearing a light blue button-down shirt is shown from the chest down, holding an open book. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color. The text 'Introduction to BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Introduction to BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS

presented by

EQUIPU

February 13, 2021—8:30am-10:00am

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS

FOUR THINGS YOU MUST BELIEVE

1. The Bible is God's W_____.

2 Timothy 3:16-17—¹⁶ **All Scripture is God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:20-21—²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, **spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

2. You N_____ God's Word.

Deuteronomy 8:3— He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone **but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord** (c.f. Matthew 4:4)

Proverbs 19:18— **Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint;** but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.

2 Timothy 3:14-17— ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are **able to make you wise for salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is **useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,** ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be **thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

3. Knowing and Reading God's Word Will C_____ You

Psalms 119:9-11— ⁹ How can a young person stay on the path of purity? **By living according to your word.** ¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. ¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart **that I might not sin against you.**

Psalms 119:97-105— ⁹⁷ Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. ⁹⁸ Your commands are always with me and make me **wiser** than my enemies. ⁹⁹ I have more **insight** than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. ¹⁰⁰ I have more **understanding** than the elders, for I obey your precepts. ¹⁰¹ I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word.... ¹⁰⁴ I gain **understanding** from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. ¹⁰⁵ **Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.**

Romans 12:2— ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Hebrews 4:12— ¹² For the word of God is **alive and active.** Sharper than any double-edged sword, it **penetrates** even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it **judges** the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

4. It May Take Some W_____ to Understand the Bible, But it is Totally P_____.

2 Peter 3:15-17—...Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. ¹⁶ He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are **hard to understand**, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

1 Peter 1:23-2:3—²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the **living and enduring word of God**. ²⁴ For, “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you. Therefore.... ² Like **newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation**, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Psalms 119:18—¹⁸ **Open my eyes that I may see** wonderful things in your law.

BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS

What is “biblical hermeneutics”?

“hermeneutics” (her-meh-noo-diks)—comes from a Greek verb, *hermēneuō* which means “to T_____ or I_____”.

- Etymology: From the Greek god, Hermes, who served as a “messenger” between the gods and between the gods and mankind.

Practically speaking then, *Biblical Hermeneutics* is two-fold in its purpose:

- INTERPRETATION—Discover the O_____ Meaning of the Text
 - *What was the Word saying to the readers THEN and THERE?*
- APPLICATION—Understand and Communicate the C_____ Meaning of the Text
 - *What is the Word saying to us HERE and NOW?*

Two Important Terms Connected to Biblical Hermeneutics

EXEGESIS—Discovering of the original meaning of a Biblical text within its historical and literary context.

- “Exegesis” (ex-eh-jee-sis) comes from a Greek word which means “to draw the meaning out of the text”.
- “Eisegesis” (eye-si-jee-sis) comes from a Greek word which means “to read into” the text what the reader wants it to mean. This may or may not be what the Biblical writer was actually trying to communicate.

EXPOSITION—The communication of the original meaning of the Biblical text along with its relevance to the present day.

To do this well, one must first...

- Master the principles of hermeneutics
- Practice accurate exegesis of the biblical text
- Produce sound and balanced interpretations
- Compare and connect your conclusions with the rest of Scripture

SOME BASIC BIBLE STUDY “TOOLS”

- A good Bible translation-New International Version (NIV), English Standard Version (ESV)
- An exhaustive concordance (Strong’s or NIV).
- A good single or two volume commentary (John MacArthur, Bible Knowledge Commentary)
- Internet resources:
 - www.biblehub.com
 - www.bible.org
 - www.biblegateway.com
 - www.biblestudytools.com
 - www.blueletterbible.com
 - www.carm.org
 - www.probe.com

THE THREE BASIC STEPS OF BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS

I believe that studying the Bible should be fun, exciting and “doable”. To that end, we will break down the process of bible study into three steps: observation, interpretation, application.

Step #1—OBSERVATION--Who, What, When, Where, Why and How?

- Who is speaking?
- Who is being spoken to?
- When is it being spoken?
- Where is it being spoken?
- What is the occasion or circumstance?
- What is the writer saying?
- Why did the writer say this?
- What is the *main* subject of the overall message?
- Why is this important?

NOTE: No observation is too small or “dumb”. Write it down!

Specific things to watch in Biblical OBSERVATION:

- Look for key names
- Look for key words
- Look for repeated words and phrases
- Look for questions being asked
- Look for answers being given
- Look for commands
- Look for warnings
- Look for comparisons and contrasts
- Look for promises and their conditions
- Look for lists of things
- Look for the “tone” of the passage
- Look for Old Testament quotes or references in the New Testament
- Look for planned exaggerations or hyperbole

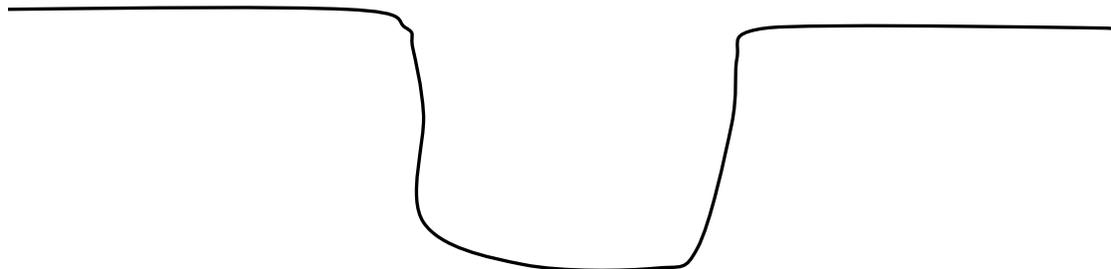
(above two lists adapted from Rick Warren’s book, “Rick Warren’s Bible Study Methods”)

Step #2—INTERPRETATION

We believe that the best way to read, understand the Bible is using a N_____,
L_____ interpretation of the Bible.

When beginning to interpret a particular passage, think C_____! Someone has said, “*The rule of context is that context rules!*”

The Challenge of Interpretation—Hermeneutical “Gaps”



Four OBJECTIVE Hermeneutical Gaps

1. Historical and Cultural Gap

In order to properly interpret the original meaning of a passage, the reader must first understand the historical and cultural context in which it was written.

Consider for example:

The Chronological Gap—If you do not know the history of the author and the audience, you may not catch the intended message (e.g. Isaiah 43:14-19)

The Cultural Gap—If you do not understand the culture of the author and the audience, you may misinterpret the message (e.g. Genesis 15—A Flaming Firepot?!?! and “Greet one another with a holy kiss”)

The Geographical Gap—If you do not understand the geography of the historical events, you may miss the intended message or significance (e.g. Psalm 133, Jesus and the Garden of Gethsemane)

The Situational Gap—If you do not understand the author’s purpose for his book as a whole, you will not understand the significance, role and meaning of what he selectively chose to include in his book. (e.g. Song of Solomon)

2. Grammar and Language Gaps

In order to properly interpret the original meaning of a passage, the reader may need to research certain key words or phrases in order to “unlock” the meaning of the passage.

The Grammar Gap

- The ancient languages had significant differences from our modern English language in grammar and syntax (e.g. “Throw the cow over the fence some hay” is of course English words but reflects the German grammar/syntax of our county).
- Our English translations do a wonderful job, but sometimes just can’t quite get it the same way the original language.
- E.G. The English language has twelve verb tenses. The Ancient Greek language has _____.

Example: Matthew 7:7-8—Ask, Seek, Knock

The Language Gap

- The Bible was written in three ancient languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek)
- Sometimes, there is no 1:1 translation to our English language.

Ex. John 21

Theories on Bible Translation—Literal vs. Dynamic Equivalent

Literal Translation—Word for word

- Objective, little interpretation
- Often a little harder to read and understand
- Examples: King James Version, New American Standard

Dynamic Equivalent—Thought for Thought (more subjective)

- Subjective, more interpretation
- Often easier to read and understand
- Examples: English Standard Version, New International Version, New Living Translation

Literal

Dynamic Equivalent



Literary Gaps

In order to properly interpret the original meaning of a passage, the reader must first understand the form and function of the literary genre in which the passage is found.

What literary forms are found in the Scripture?

- Narrative
- Poetry
- Prophecy
- Proverbs
- Epistles
- Parables

3. Theological Gaps

In order to properly interpret the original meaning of a passage, the reader must first C_____ and C_____ what seems to be the intended message of the author to the rest of Scripture.

Questions to ask oneself:

- Can my interpretation of this passage be supported by other Scriptures?

- Can my interpretation of this passage be proven wrong by other Scriptures?

A Word About “Progressive Revelation”

When considering the possible theological “gaps” in a passage, one would benefit to understand the concept of “Progressive Revelation”. “Progressive Revelation” carries this idea that God has revealed Himself progressively throughout history, therefore the theology presented in the later books of the Bible are based upon the theology presented in the earlier books of the Bible. Thus, generally speaking, the meaning of the New Testament is based upon theology laid in the Old Testament.

(e.g. “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world—John 1:29).

That being stated, there will be times that the New Testament seems to change from Old Testament theology. Should that occur, one should be able to prove the this new theology is a F_____ (Matthew 5:17), not a C_____, of the Old Testament theology (e.g. Acts 10).

So, when there are seeming contradictions...

- The New Testament interprets the Old Testament

- The Epistles interpret the Gospels

- Systematic passages interpret the incidental

- Universal passages interpret the local

- Didactic passages interpret the symbolic

(Edward J. Carnell, *The Case for Orthodox Theology*)