

Growth Institute: Biblical Hermeneutics

1/19/22 Week 2: Interpreting the Bible and Reading the Text

Review: What is hermeneutics?

What types of precommitments do we need to have when studying the Bible?

Why do we need translations?

What are the differences in literal and functional translations?

Key Terms:

Deductive Bible Study: Starts with a topic and finds material on that topic. Moves from general to specific. For example, what does the Bible say about God's love.

Inductive Bible Study: Starts with a text and examines it before carefully moving towards the general. Steps are often observation, interpretation, application.

Eisegesis: to lead into (injecting your idea into the text)

Exegesis: to lead out of (letting the text's meaning determine your understanding)

The Interpretive Process:

Understand the Author's Intention:

To understand the author's intention is to understand the divine intention.

Duvall and Hays' Crossing the River:

Bad approaches to Studying the Bible

Intuitive:

Spiritualizing:

Quitting:

Steps to Interpret the Bible:

1. Ask what it meant to the original audience.
2. Recognize the differences in you and the original audience.
3. Identify the theological principle of the text.
4. Apply the text to your situation in light of the principle.

Steps to Reading the Bible:

1. Pray
2. Observe the words/sentences and the relationships carefully.
 - a. Repeated words
 - b. Contrasts (Prov. 15:1)
 - c. Comparison (Isaiah 40:31)
 - d. Lists
 - e. Cause and Effect (Prov. 15:1)
 - f. Figures of Speech (Isaiah 40:31)
 - g. Conjunctions (Romans 6:23)

h. Verbs: Mood/Tense/Voice

3. Ask questions of the text (who, what, where, when, why, how, etc).
4. Communicate with others about the text

Practice: Mark your observations on the text of Romans 12:1-2.

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a

living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be

conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing

you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Mark your observations on Romans 6:15-23

15 What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are

slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience,

which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of

sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were

committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 19

I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once

presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more

lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to

sanctification.

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Further Study: *Journey Into God's Word: Your Guide to Understanding and Applying the Bible* by Duvall and Hays—we are using this book and the longer version of it *Grasping God's Word* significantly. Consider purchasing *Journey Into God's Word*.

<https://www.danielakin.com/sermons/> Scroll to the Hermeneutics section for his class notes.

Review: <https://www.biblestudymagazine.com/bible-study-magazine-blog/2016/7/27/howard-hendricks-4-bible-study-steps>

Prepare: <https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/bible-context>