

Growth Institute: Hermeneutics

2/23/22: Word Studies

A word study asks what *this* word means in *this* context (Gordon Fee).

Common Mistakes (from Duvall and Hays, *Grasping God's Word*)

1. English-Only Fallacy
2. Root Fallacy
3. Time-Frame Fallacy
4. Overload Fallacy
5. Word Count Fallacy
6. Word-Concept Fallacy
7. Selective-Evidence Fallacy

How to Select Words to Study

1. Look for crucial words & theological words
2. Look for repeated words (Matt. 5:1-12).
3. Look for puzzling words

Using a Paper Concordance: Look up the English word and passage, find the number, read the entry. This provides the semantic range.

Using Electronic Resources: Logos, Accordance, STEP Bible, Blue Letter Bible

Consider the Context—context displays meaning

- a. Contrast/comparisons help display meaning (Eph. 4:29)
- b. Subject matter/topic helps display meaning (Ge. 39:14-15)
- c. Author's use elsewhere helps display meaning (reckon/consider in Romans 4:5-11, 6:11, 8:18).
- d. Historical context can help display meaning (conduct yourselves in Phil. 1:27) likely had political overtones to a people proud of their citizenship.

It is often helpful to look at other translations to see if they used similar/different English words to convey the concept.

If a word is only used once in the Bible, we can try to get meaning also from ways used elsewhere, but we use brother/sister different in churches than the world does.

Practice Time:

Further Study:

<https://www.logos.com/how-to/bible-word-study>

Preparation for Next Week (where is meaning found):

<https://www.biola.edu/blogs/good-book-blog/2018/the-meaning-of-a-text-is-not-in-the-reader>

Resources For Going Further:

Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. *Journey Into God's Word*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.

Carson, D.A. *Exegetical Fallacies*. 2d, ed., Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1996.