



How To Study The Passage (Part 1)

HOW TO PREPARE AND TEACH A BIBLE STUDY

SESSION 1

How To Prepare And Teach A Bible Study

- February 15 How To Study The Passage (Part 1)
- February 22 How To Study The Passage (Part 2)
- March 1 How To Prepare A Lesson
- March 8 The Seven Laws of Teaching
- March 15 How To Lead A Discussion
- March 22 How To Share A Devotional Or Sermon
- March 29 *No Class* (Spring Break)
- April 5 How To Teach Children (Mei-Mei Lee)
- April 12 Practicums (for those who want to practice)

Teaching is a biblical mandate

- **2 Timothy 2:2** What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Teaching is a great responsibility

- **James 3:1** My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

Teaching require proper interpretation

- **2 Timothy 2:15** Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.
- **Our Attitude: Enthusiastic Diligence**
- **Our Accountability: Sanctified Presentation**
- **Our Approach: Hardworking Effort**
- **Our Actions: Unashamed Workmanship**
- **Our Accuracy: Proper Interpretation**

There is only One interpretation that matters:

- **God's**

The study of Biblical Interpretation is called “Hermeneutics”

- *hermeneuo/hermeneia* (19x in NT) = “explaining” or “translating”
- “**Hermeneutics** is the science and art of interpreting the Bible. It is a science because it is guided by rules within a system; and it is an art because the application of the rules is by skill, and not by mechanical imitation.” (Bernard Ramm, *Protestant Biblical Interpretation*, p. 1)

The Need For Proper Interpretation

- **Acts 8:30-31** ³⁰So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. x
- Gives An Accurate Presentation Of God’s Expectation For Man
- Guards Against Doctrinal Error
- Proper Application Of The Scriptures

The Function Of Hermeneutics

- **Hermeneutics** – the rules for determining the meaning of Scripture
- **Exegesis** – the determination of the meaning of Scripture
- **Homiletics** – the rules for communicating the Scripture through preaching to others
- **Pedagogy** – the rules for communicating the Scripture through teaching others
- **Exposition** – the explanation of the meaning of Scripture to others

The Function Of Hermeneutics

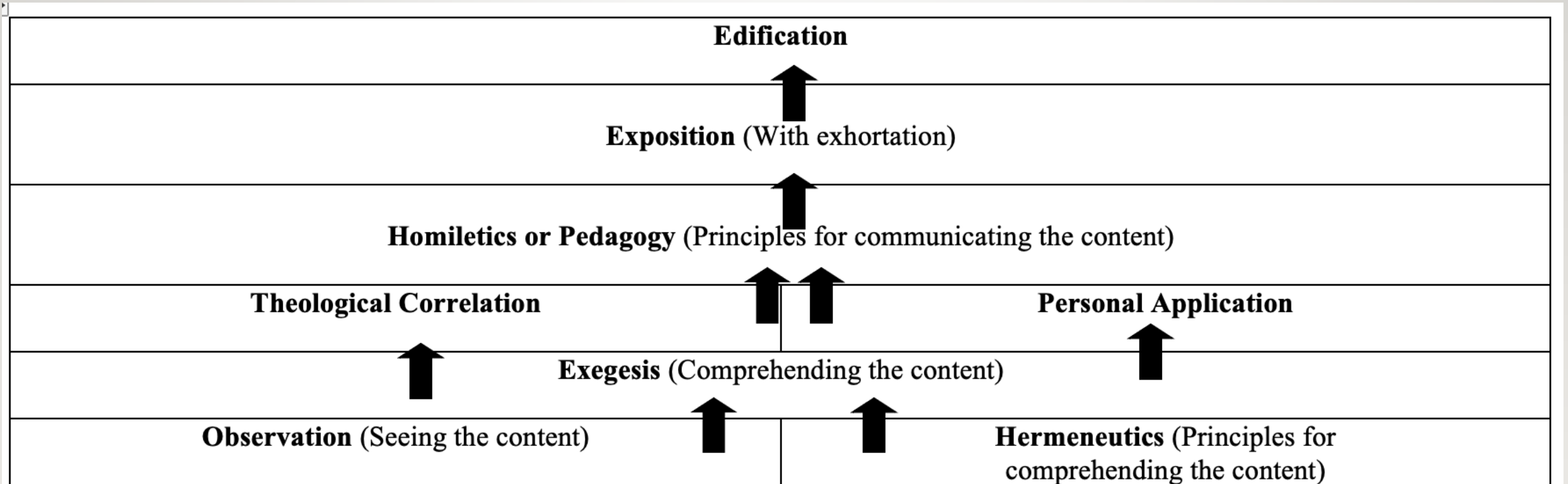


Chart from Roy Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation*, p. 21

The Assumptions In Hermeneutics

- The Bible Is God's Inspired Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- The Bible Is God's Revealed Word
- The Bible Is God's Clear Word (Luke 24:25-27; Jn 3:9-10)

The Reason For Hermeneutics

- A Time Gap (Chronological)
- A Space Gap (Geographical)
- A Customs Gap (Cultural)
- Language Gap (Linguistic)

Summary

Scan The Text

Sort The Content

Survey The Context

Scrutinize The Communication

Spot The Colloquialisms

Scope What's Coming

Solve The Conflicts

Specify With Certainty

Supplement Through Cross-Referencing

Submit To The Commands

I. Scan The Text

- Pray for God to illuminate God's Word for you
- Read the passage several times
- It is helpful to read it in several translations
- Write down your observations
- Write down your questions about the text or context



II. Sort The Content

Identify The Type Of Literature The Book Is

Genre	Characteristics	Examples
Apocalyptic	highly symbolic, dramatic conflict, prophetic, good vs. evil	Revelation
Biography	portrayal of person's life - positive or negative	Abraham, David, Jesus
Exposition	organized, reasoned, logical argument, aimed for response	Letters from Paul, Peter, James
Narrative	historical accounts, focus on events & people	Genesis, Gospels, Acts
Oratory	persuasive sermon or speech intended to persuade	Serm. on Mt; Acts 7; Jn 13-17
Parable	short story illustrating one moral point	Prodigal Son, Good Samaritan
Poetry	verse intended for reading or singing, emphasis on cadence, sound of words, images, symbols, and parallelism	Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
Prophecy	forth-telling of God's warning; fore-telling of God's judgment	Isaiah - Malachi
Proverb	short statement of moral truth – parallelism, metaphors, etc.	Proverbs

Identify The Type Of Literature The Book Is

In the Old Testament Christ is:	In the New Testament Christ is:
in shadow in pictures in type in ritual latent prophesied implicitly revealed	in substance in person in truth in reality patent present explicitly revealed

Observe Key Features In The Passage

- **Point:** What is the emphasis?
- **Pattern:** What is frequently repeated?
- **Parallel:** What is similar?
- **Partition:** What is contrasted?
- **Principle:** What is the truth being taught?



III. Survey The Context

The Literary Context - *How does the passage fit with the previous and subsequent passages?*

1. How does the book fit in with the rest of the **Bible**?

2. How does the chapter fit with the rest of the **book**?

3. How does the paragraph fit in with the **chapter**?

4. How does the sentence fit with the **paragraph**?

5. What does the **sentence** convey?

6. What does the **word** mean in context?

Zoom Out: Identify The Literary Context

Distinguish Changes Of Themes And Types Of Writing

- **Alert yourself to conjunctions:** “therefore”, “but”, “then”, “since”
- **Note changes in subgenre:** Greeting, Prayer, Command, Illustration, Sermon, Narrative
- **Identify changes in location and time**

Zoom In: Identify The Immediate Context

Analyze The Sentence:

- main thought
- Subject
- Object
- Action
- Modifier
- Conjunctions
- Prepositions

The Historical Context

- What was happening when this was written?
- Who does this passage address?
- What is the audience going through at the time of writing?
- What is the circumstance of the author?



The Historical Context

- Author

The *Background* Of The *Author* Of The Book

- **Identification**
- **Circumstance**
- **History**
- **Comprehension**

The Historical Context

- **Author**
- **Time of Writing**
- **Place of Writing** (circumstance, politics)
- **Recipients Background**
- **Occasion for Writing**
- **Purpose for Writing** - determine themes, topics or issues

The Cultural Context

How did the people think during the time of writing?

- **Political**
- **Religious**
- **Legal**

The Geographical Context

What impact does the location have on the text?

- Because we weren't there when and where the Bible was written, we can benefit from the work of biblical historians, archaeologists and scholars to give us descriptions of buildings, cities and travels

The Theological Context

- We must understand the theological context of the audience to grasp the context of the text.
- What was the relationship of the audience to God?
- What does God require of them for obedience?

Conclusion: The Good News When It's Hard, The Holy Spirit Will Help Us!!

The Holy Spirit

- **Instructs** The Believer In The Truth Of God's Word (Jn 14:26a)
- **Reminds** The Believer Of The Truths In God's Word (Jn 14:26b)
- **Guides** The Believer Through The Truth Of God's Word (Jn 16:13a)
- **Proclaims** To The Believer That The Truth Is Found In God's Word (Jn 16:15)
- **Reveals** To The Believer What Is The Truth Which Is Found In God's Word (1 Cor 2:10-11)