

COM 803 Hermeneutics and Communication

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Principles of Hermeneutic

Hermeneutic: 2 Tim 2 15

Introduction

Source: **A. B. Simpson** said that the “most beneficial study of God’s Word requires diligence and perseverance, but the results are worth the effort. He further said ‘God has hidden every precious thing in such a way that it is a reward to the diligent, a prize to the earnest, but a disappointment to the slothful soul’ meaning that all nature must have arrayed in against the loungers or the idlers. The nut is hidden in its thorny case; the pearl is buried beneath the ocean waves; the gold is imprisoned in the rocky bosom of the mountains; the gem is found only after you crush the rock which encloses it; the very soil gives its harvest as a reward to the laboring farmer. So, truth and God must be earnestly sought.” Using sound hermeneutic principles is not optional for the true disciple of Christ. The Apostle Paul encourages us to "be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth". (2 Timothy 2:15). The bible interpretation in this verse talks about the present condition of a believer insisting on the diligence to study the word. Study means to put more work, dig deeper to get the real meaning hidden under the literal interpretation

Principles

1. First and foremost, let scripture interpret Scripture: What does the Bible say about two or three witnesses?
 - “A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established” (Deut 19:15; 1 John 5:8; Matt 15: 16; 2 Cor 13:1)
2. Secondly two cant walk together unless they agree: Amos 3:3: Jesus talked about two witnesses in Revelation 11:3-KJV : And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

Source: **Randy Seiver**

3. “Texts of Scripture should be interpreted in the context and content in both immediate and broad contexts.
4. No text of Scripture (properly interpreted in its context) will contradict another text of Scripture. When contradictions seem to exist, it is the task of the interpreter to explain the seeming contradiction. He must never seek to do so by ignoring or denying any part of the truth that is revealed in Scripture”

Source: **Gordon Fee**: We must try to trace the author's thoughts, background, what is he saying, why and what it has to do with the meaning of the words. To answer this question the reader will ordinarily to seek outside help like: different version; bible dictionaries, commentaries and alike.

Contextualization

Source: **Oletta Wald**; Each writer of a book in the Bible had a specific purpose for writing as directed by the Holy Spirit and so each of the scripture is meaningful and helpful. is A reader being the interpreter at the same time, so it is important to observe the structure of each book starting with bibliographical in terms of the lives of people like the live of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & Joseph in Genesis. Then the Historical in terms of succession of events like in Exodus with material organized to the experiences of the Israelites as they fed Egypt. Finally; Hermeneutics attempts to determine what message the author intended to convey and how it would have been understood in its original historical and cultural setting. Source: This involves a lot of specialized knowledge of the original Bible languages, literary styles and figures of speech, as well as the history, culture, and current events and issues of the time and place where it was written. Rather than forcing Bible interpretation to fit into a particular theological framework, such as church doctrine or strict literalism, hermeneutics attempts to draw out the true meaning as it was originally intended. Once we know what a Bible passage originally meant, we can prayerfully apply that knowledge to our lives in the modern world.

- **Citation**

Blog: Version of Preceptaustin.org (Drupal, Summer, 2017)

Randy Seiver: In These Last Days, (New Covenant Media, 1998), p71-72

Gordon D. Fee & Douglas Stuart: How to Read the Bible in All Its Worth; Zondervan Academy; Pp
29-33

Oletta Wald: The New Joy of Discovery in the Bible; Augsburg Fortress Minneapolis; Newly
Revised; Pp 46-48

Harper's Bible Commentary, Harper, 1988, pp. 8-9.

Bible: Deut 19:15; 1 John 5:8; Matt 15: 16; 2 Cor 13:1; 1 tim 2:15; Amos 3: 3.