

# Week 4: Introduction to Biblical Interpretation

## 1. What is Hermeneutics?

- 1) Definition: The study of the principles and methods used to interpret the Bible accurately.
- 2) Purpose: To understand the original meaning of the text and apply it correctly in today's context.

## 2. The Importance of Proper Interpretation

### 1) Prevents Heresy:

Misinterpretation can lead to error and heresy (2 Peter 3:16)

### 2) Preserves the Truth:

To rightly handle and pass on God's word (2 Timothy 2:15)

### 3) Practical Application:

To apply Scripture correctly in life (James 1:22)

## 3. Basic Principles of Interpretation

### 1) Contextual Principle:

Interpret verses within their immediate and broader context.

### 2) Historical-Cultural Background:

Understand the culture, history, and customs of the biblical time.

### 3) Grammatical Interpretation:

Analyze the grammar and structure of the original languages (Hebrew & Greek).

### 4) Scripture Interprets Scripture:

Use the unity of Scripture to clarify meaning.

### 5) Literary Genre Awareness:

Apply interpretation methods based on the genre—history, poetry, prophecy, parable, etc.

## 4. Factors Influencing Interpretation

### 1) Presuppositions of the Interpreter:

One's theological views, worldview, and faith perspective.

2) Bible Translation Differences:

Impact of literal vs. dynamic translations.

3) Textual Complexity:

Ambiguity can lead to multiple interpretations.

5. Examples of Misinterpretation

1) Overuse of Allegory:

Reading spiritual meaning into texts that require literal interpretation.

2) Reading into the Text (Eisegesis):

Imposing meanings not supported by the text.

3) Proof-texting:

Taking verses out of context to support a point.

6. Practical Application

- 1) Choose a short passage and practice interpretation using the principles learned.
- 2) Engage in group discussion to compare interpretations and applications.

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Homework & Review

- 1) Analyze The Parable of the Sower(Matthew 13) using the interpretive principles from this week.
- 2) Next week's topic: Major Themes of the Bible