

Discernment – 6 Hermeneutics

Outline

Introduction

1. Hermeneutics is the art / science of interpreting the Scriptures.
2. There are well established principles but not everyone agrees on which principles to follow.
3. Whichever hermeneutic you apply will determine your doctrine. It is therefore crucial.

Is it written?

1. If the plain meaning make sense, seek no other sense.
2. Chapter and verse
3. Check the author's references – does it actually say that?

Context

1. Section
2. Book
3. Testament eg. Prosperity based on OT
4. Bible – is this the general teaching of the Bible?

Genre

1. History – not all that is written is approved
2. Law
3. Poetic
4. Wisdom
5. Prophetic
6. Gospels
7. Parables
8. Plain teaching / statements of the NT

General

1. Not building doctrine on isolated texts
2. Know the Bible.
3. Extracting the principles
4. Know how to use reference works and computer apps.
5. Missouri – Show me.

Study Questions – Hermeneutics

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-16

Introduction:

A large part of being a diligent worker who “rightly divides the Word of truth” is learning how to interpret and find the *intended* meaning of the text. Knowing now that hermeneutics is about interpreting the Scriptures correctly, how will this knowledge frame your study of the Bible?

What does it mean to “spiritualize” a text in the Bible?

Is it Written?

Why would someone try to change a Biblical text that is plain and simple and clear?

If you “tie” a message or teaching to actual verses in the Bible what are you safeguarding against?

Context

Come up with a scenario where a word that means one thing in one context means something totally different in another one.

How much did the word meaning change according to the context?

How is “section and book” different than “chapter and verse” context?

Why is New Testament and Old Testament context important to distinguish?

Will a single verse contradict what the rest of the Bible says?

Genre

How many of the different genres of the Bible can you recall? (without looking at the outline)

Think of the genre of “History” for a minute and the truth that “not all that is written is approved.” Can you think of an example of this from Scripture?

Some parables have details that are to be interpreted and some are not. How will this truth help us to avoid pitfalls in rightly interpreting the parables?

Which genre of Scripture should be our main focus in order to “live the Word of God?”

General Conclusions:

What priorities must change in my life so I can commit myself to studying the Word in a way that I will apply proper hermeneutics and then understand and apply the intended meaning of the text?

Write down and commit to memory the general guidelines taught in this teaching to help guide you in your Bible study. Spend time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to help you study, interpret properly, and obey what He teaches you.