

Hermeneutics, Their Application, FFCC Bible Study, 5/6/16, Revised 12/26/25

Foundation: Inerrancy of the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Principles:

1. The Bible means what it says. Matthew 12:40
2. If the text makes sense, seek no other sense. Genesis 1:31-2:2
3. The Bible should be read and scrutinized the same way as other books. 1 Corinthians 15:3-6
4. Most Bible texts have only one meaning, but many applications. Luke 2:7
5. Base the subjective on the objective truth of God's Word. Acts 2:4-6
6. A text taken out of context is a pretext. Revelation 1:14
7. We interpret unclear texts in light of clear texts. John 5:28-29 in light of John 5:24
8. We should understand Scripture literally, unless the context gives us reason not to. Luke 22:19
9. Whenever possible, allow the Bible to interpret itself. Matthew 3:11-12
10. Beware of allegorical interpretations. John 2:6
11. Every word is part of, and fits the whole of, Scripture. Romans 11:7,11
12. The Bible will never contradict itself. Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 7:12
13. The Bible is best understood within a framework of dispensations. Ephesians 1:10, 3:2
14. The Bible is Christocentric. Hebrews 7:23-28
15. The Bible reveals progressively from beginning to end. Hebrews 1:1-2
16. Prophecy is sometimes fulfilled in type, or only partially at a point in time. Isaiah 61:1-3
17. We must distinguish between Bible commands, and its records. Genesis 2:24; 1 Kings 11:3
18. Scripture is perspicuous, its message is so simple that a child can understand it. Genesis 7:17-19

Case Studies:

1. Genesis 5:27, Did Methuselah really live 969 years?
2. Exodus 21:23-25, How do we understand the "Law of Retaliation and Justice?"
3. Deuteronomy 24:1-4, What was the purpose of this law?
4. Isaiah 7:16, In context, who is the "child" in this verse?
5. Psalm 22:16, In what way was this fulfilled, even though the Psalmist could not understand it?
6. Isaiah 61:1-3, When will these things be fulfilled?
7. Malachi 4:5, When will these things be fulfilled?
8. Jeremiah 31:5, When will these things be fulfilled?
9. Matthew 24:36, How should we understand this?
10. Luke 21:29-32, What does the "fig tree" represent?
11. Matthew 12:31-32, What is the unpardonable sin, and who could commit it?
12. Romans 16:1-2, Was Phoebe in the office of deaconess?
13. Galatians 3:28 and 1 Timothy 2:11-3:2, Which passage tells us if women should (not) be elders?
14. Ephesians 2:8-10, What does this text teach us about the gospel?
15. Revelation 12:1-6, What is the identity of the "woman?"
16. Revelation 11:1-15, Who are these two witnesses?