

Week 6 Hermeneutics

The Bible is God's special revelation – He chose to share himself with us

His plan has always been to (include) people

His book is timely and (timeless)

Scripture was written to (them) but is for (us)!

What is hermeneutics?

The art and science of Biblical Interpretation

Why is it important?

- We discover (God)
- We learn who we are to Him
- We realize what it takes to be in relationship with Him
- To guard against false teachers
- To guard against self-deception

How do we interpret God's word?

Very carefully!!

Dr. Tony Evans says, "When studying Scripture, the question that any group must ask is whether the knowledge of God is the goal. To have any other goal is to make Scripture the handmaiden of humanity." *Oneness Embraced*, p. 205.

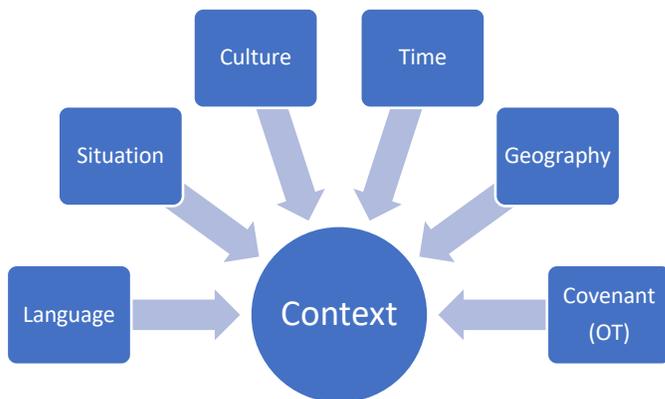
First Key to Accurately Interpreting Scripture

Understand the (context)

Language is one component of context

273,000 words in English – maybe

Average English speaker knows (30,000) words



DISCUSSION ONE

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(Who) is writing?

- Author
- Time period
- Relationship to readers
- Purpose

Who is being (written) to?

- Location
- Circumstances

How is this text written?

Genre – Bible as a (library)

- Narrative/Historical – Ruth 1:1
- Poetry & (Songs) – Psalm 119:102-103
- Proverbs – Proverbs 10:12
- Prophecy – The human report of (divine) revelation. Exodus 4:12, Jeremiah 1:9, Ezekiel 2:7
- Apocalyptic – Divine revelation using symbolic, figurative, and metaphoric language interpreting current events in light of (heavenly) realities. Revelation 1:7
- Biographical – John 1:1
- (Letters)/Epistles – Ephesians 1:1-2

God's library doesn't (limit) him to one genre at a time!

- Deuteronomy: Moses the prophet of God wrote the narrative of God and also composed a song praising the greatness of God. (Deut. 32)
- Luke: Biographical account of Jesus includes Mary's Song (the Magnificat) as well as Jesus' prophecy of the destruction of the temple
- Revelation is a letter, prophecy, and apocalyptic book!

Jesus used many types of speech

- Hyperbole: Matthew 5:29 "If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away."
- Imagery: Matthew 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."
- Proverbial sayings: Matthew 17:20 "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Never read a Bible (verse)!

- Read the paragraph
- Read the chapter
- Read the entire book
- Read everything written by this author

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- Read the whole Bible

DISCUSSION TWO

Homework:

Grab a friend and work through the context of these verses:

- Jeremiah 29:11
- Matthew 18:20
- Matthew 7:1

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

The Bible Handbook by The Daily Grace Co.

Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes by E. Randolph Richards & Brandon J. O'Brien