

Bible Study on Hermeneutics – Handout 6

Grace Bible Chapel

August 2009

Pastor/Teacher Jim Bryant

Applying what we have discussed – exegete a passage

2Ti 2:15 “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

- **Begin with prayer**

1Co 2:12-13 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

Psa 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law.

Psa 119:27 Make me understand the way of Your precepts, So I will meditate on Your wonders.

Psa 119:34 Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law And keep it with all *my* heart.

- **Read the passage several times, and begin to mull it in your mind**

Psa 119:15 I will meditate on Your precepts And regard Your ways.

Psa 119:148 My eyes anticipate the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word.

- **Broad view**

- Who is the writer?
- When was it written?
- What type of writing is it (history, poetry, letter, narrative, law, etc.)? What ramifications does the type bring to the exegesis?
- For what purpose was this book written?
- For whom is the book written – who were to be the original readers?
- Is there a key verse or verses for this writing?
- How does it fit into the general context of all Scripture (history, culture, circumstance)?
- How does it fit the timeline of history when it was written (in relation to other books)?
- How does it fit into the timeline relationship of progressive revelation?

- **Book view**

- Complete a broad by chapter outline of the writing.
- How does the chapter of the passage fit into the rest of the writing, and what is its purpose in relation to the whole writing?
- What would be missing if the chapter containing the passage were left out of the writing?

- **Near passage view**

- Look for the paragraph breaks
 - What is written about or happening in the chapter before, and paragraph's before?
 - What is written about or happening in the chapter after, and paragraph's after?
 - Is there a connecting word at the beginning of this paragraph or passage?
- What is this passage or paragraphs relation to those immediately before and after?
- What would be missing if the passage or paragraph were left out of the chapter?

- **Immediate passage view**

- What type of writing is this passage (narrative, explanation, quote, etc.)?
- Is the passage answering a question or is it connected in any manner to the passages before and after, and if so how?
- Are there other books, parallel passages, or passages dealing with the same event, subject, command, theme, concept, or word expressions? List them.
- Are there cultural terms or cultural settings that require explanation?
 - What is their purpose in this passage?

- What meaning do they bring to this passage?
 - Is there a special or specific literary genre associated with the passage?
 - Are there figures of speech found in the passage (metaphor, simile, hyperbole, allegory, etc.)?
 - Are there concepts, commands, or doctrines found in this passage that seem to be contrary to other concepts, commands, or doctrines found elsewhere in Scripture?
 - What is the key verse of the immediate passage?
 - What are the key words or phrases in the passage? Study the meaning of the key words and phrases from the original language.
 - What is their definition?
 - How are those words or phrases used elsewhere in the writing?
 - How are those words or phrases used in parallel writings?
 - How are those words or phrases used elsewhere in the Bible?
 - What do these words and phrases tell us is being communicated in the immediate passage?
 - Do basic sentence structure diagramming.
 - What is the object in each sentence (the subject that receives the action)?
 - What modifiers are used in each sentence (a word that changes or limits the description of another word)?
- Putting it together
 - Is there a concept, command, or doctrine that does not agree with or is contrary to other Scripture? What explanation can be given?
 - Begin with the first verse –
 - How is this connected to the previous verse or verses? Is there a connecting word?
 - Look at each key word used and determine the meaning in this sentence.
 - Follow the same pattern with the subsequent verses –
 - Determine the meaning of each verse by using principles of grammar – what is the subject of each verse? What modifiers are used? What connecting words are used? What adjectives are used? If necessary look at it in a parallel Bible from the original language to understand its structure.
 - Look at each key word used and determine the meaning in this sentence. Understand the tense (past, present, future), voice (active or passive), and mood (effect, question, command, or request).
 - Are the clauses in the sentences dependent, or independent?
 - Are there synonyms and antonyms? How are they used?
 - Look at various other translations of the same passage.
 - Is this passage related to one of the covenants of God? Which one, and how?
 - Connect the dots – that is determine the relationship of the passage to the Bible, the book, the chapters before and after, and the immediate context.
 - What is the writer communicating and why?
 - Why is this passage in this context?
 - How does this passage fit with the overall theme?
 - Read commentaries on this passage.
 - Write a theme description for this passage – what is the purpose and what is being communicated by this passage.
 - Outline this passage – make yourself commit to what each verse has as its intended meaning.
 - Are there any unanswered issues or questions concerning the passage?
 - Write commentary (exegete) this passage.