

Understanding Scripture

Session 1: Intro/Interpretive Journey

Nehemiah 8:8: *They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.*

I. Brief Intro: Why This Class

1. Hermeneutics: *Biblical hermeneutics is the craft of interpreting Scripture.*

I. Understanding the Sense - Nehemiah 8:8

- Growth in how we personally can grasp and understanding the Scriptures.
- Caveat: Need for Teachers but Desiring to Grow in Theological Understanding of the Bible.
- **Hebrews 5:12-14:**

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

2. Being Changed by the Word

I. What Scripture Says about Itself

Acts 20:32

*And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, **which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.***

2 Tim 3:16-17

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.***

Hebrews 4:12

*For the word of God is **living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.***

Psalm 119:9-16

*How can a young man **keep his way pure?**
By guarding it according to your word.
With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not wander from your commandments!*

*I have stored up your word in my heart,
that **I might not sin against you.**
Blessed are you, O LORD;
teach me your statutes!
With my lips I declare
all the rules of your mouth.
In the way of your testimonies I delight
as much as in all riches.
I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways.
I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.*

“The Bible is the primary instrumental cause of your sanctification.” -Mike Bullmore

3. Knowing God Through His Own Self-Revelation

John 5:39

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me

II. Interpretive Journey - 4 Step Process

- Misunderstanding is Easy

Example

- We do not create meaning; are trying to grasp the meaning that God intended.
- Careful Reading
- Beginning the Process:

1. Grasping the Text in Their Town

2. Measuring the Width of the River to Cross

3. Crossing the Principilizing Bridge

4. Grasping the Text in Their Town

- **Placing the Cross on the Bridge**