



Senior Adult Community
Grace Fellowship Church

SO WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Differing Beliefs in the Local Church

SESSION I How do We Interpret the Bible?

INTRODUCTION

Preliminaries



PURPOSE OF THIS SERIES

This study will explore the what-why-how
of the local church
to better understand theological differences
and the biblical basis
for Grace Fellowship Church's
teaching and practice.



CLASS SESSIONS

- 1. How do we interpret the Bible?**
2. What is God's role in salvation?
3. How do we find salvation?
4. How can I be sure of my salvation?



CLASS SESSIONS

5. What are Covenant Theology distinctives?
6. What are Dispensational Theology distinctives?
7. How does a believer grow spiritually?
8. Summary & Discussion



PREVIEW OF CONTENT

- Hermeneutics
- Calvinism & Arminianism & Provisionalism
- Free Grace & Lordship Salvation
- Covenants – Creeds – Reformed
- Dispensations – Israel & Church – Prophecy
- Wesleyanism - Keswick



RESPECT



Knowing that discussions about differences in our beliefs could stir controversy and polarize believers, this study will seek mutual respect and unity along with our quest for clarity and understanding.



RESPECT



With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:2-3



DISCLAIMERS

- Bring your Bibles
- Not an Expert
- My Vantagepoint
- Lean-in & learn

Mark 4:10 As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve disciples, began asking Him about the parables.



JESUS BEFORE PILATE

“You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the **TRUTH**. John 7:37



JESUS BEFORE PILATE

“What is **TRUTH?**”

John 7:38



WHY IS THIS STUDY IMPORTANT?

To know God and His Truth

This is eternal life, that they may know You, **the only true God,**
and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3

You will know **the truth**, and **the truth** will make you free.
John 14:6

When He, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, He will guide you into all
the truth. John 16:13



GOD WANTS TO BE KNOWN

“That you may know that I am the Lord your God!”

- God created humankind that we might know Him.
- God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden.
- God pours forth speech night after night
- God gave us His Son that we might know Him.
- God gave us His Word that we might know Him.



SO THAT YOU MAY KNOW.....

Then I will take you as My people, and I will be your God;
and you shall **know** that I am the Lord your God, Ex 6:7

Then the Egyptians shall **know** that I am the Lord. Ex 7:5

That you may **know** that there is no one like Me in all the
earth. Ex 9:14

Stop striving and **know** that I am God. Psalm 36:10

I am the Lord, and there is no one else. Isaiah 45:6



SESSION I

HOW DO WE INTERPRET THE BIBLE?

Hermeneutics



HERMENEUTICS



Definition: “The study and methodology of interpretation.”

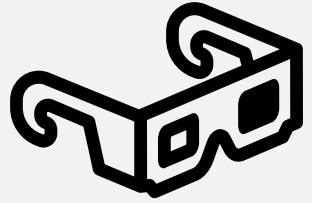
Etymology: From *HERMES* the fleet-footed messenger of the Greek gods who delivered the sender’s words and their meaning to the recipients.

3 Main parts of Bible Study

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. What does it say? | OBSERVATION |
| 2. What does it mean? | INTERPRETATION |
| 3. What should I do? | APPLICATION |



IMPORTANT TERMS

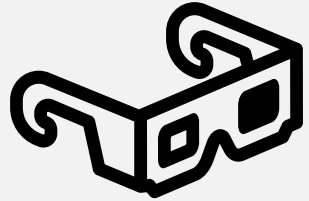


Eisegesis interpreting a text through one's own agendas, biases, or presuppositions. Literally “to read into.”

What would be some biases one might read into a bible text?



IMPORTANT TERMS



Eisegesis interpreting a text through one's own agendas, biases, or presuppositions. Literally “to read into.”

What would be some biases one might read into a bible text?

- Denomination
- Nationalism
- My Heros
- Theology
- Politics
- My Lifestyle
- Culture
- Social
- My Needs



IMPORTANT TERMS

Eisegesis interpreting a text through one's own agendas, biases, or presuppositions. Literally “to read into.”

What would be some biases one might read into a bible text?



Exegesis explaining the meaning of a text based on a careful, objective analysis. Literally “to lead out of.”



DO YOU AGREE?

Comment in YouTube video chat

“As a pastor, I see one problem. - the fact that people are not interested in the original message of the Bible, but that everyone wants to receive some personal, cheerful message.

....

If I strictly adhere to the message of the Bible, no one will come to church. That is why there are many false teachers and false congregations. Demand determines supply.”



GFC DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

We believe in...

1. The only true God, the almighty Creator of all things existing eternally in three persons Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. The unique divine inspiration entire trustworthiness and authority of the Bible.



FELLOWSHIP CHURCH KNOXVILLE DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

We believe the Bible is the Word of God; verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, and that it is the supreme, final, and infallible authority in doctrine and practice.

By inspiration we mean God's superintendence of human authors so that using their own individual personalities, they composed and recorded without error His revelation to man in the words of the original autographs.



FELLOWSHIP CHURCH KNOXVILLE DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

We further believe that there is but one method of Bible interpretation-the literal, or historical-grammatical method.

This method recognizes the fact that the authors of Scripture meant what they said.

Therefore, we consistently apply the rules of grammar, literature, history, and culture to Scripture in order to unlock and understand the author's meaning.



THE BIBLE - INSPIRATION

Verbal plenary inspiration of original manuscripts

- God's inspiration of the text of Scripture extends to the very words themselves and to all parts of Scripture and all subject matters of Scripture
- *All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness.*

2Timothy 3:16



THE BIBLE – MAJOR QUESTIONS

- Is it accurate?
- Is it truthful?
- Is it inspired?
- Is it relevant?
- What does it mean?

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



THE KEY QUESTION

The Key Question in sound biblical Hermeneutics is not
“What does this scripture mean to me?”

It is “What did the author intend for the original recipients
to understand that he was saying?”





INTERPRETING
ART



GOLDEN RULE OF INTERPRETATION

“When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise.”

[David L. Cooper]



PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION

- #1 LITERAL : Interpret the text in its normal or plain meaning unless it is obviously symbolic or a figure of speech.
- #2 GRAMMATICAL: Interpret the text by analyzing words, tense, syntax, structure, original language, etymology, usage.
- #3 HISTORICAL: Interpret the text by considering the author, recipients, political, national, cultural, and geographic realities.
- #4 CONSISTENCY: Interpret Scripture with Scripture.



CONTEXT

Context

Context

Context

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Context



EXAMPLE FROM EPHESIANS

1:4 just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons and daughters through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will



EXAMPLE FROM JEREMIAH 29:11

For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord,
'plans for prosperity and not for disaster,
to give you a future and a hope.



EXAMPLE FROM JEREMIAH 29:11

10 “For this is what the Lord says: ‘When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.’”

11 For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.’”



#2 Key Calvinist Scripture – Ephesians 2

Faith is a gift of God, not of yourselves

Calvinist Understanding

- **Ephesians 2:8-9**

For by grace you have been saved through **faith**; and **this** is not of yourselves, it is the **gift of God**; not a result of **works**, so that no one may boast.

- *Interpretation: Faith is a gift of God. Even faith did not come from the individual, but the individual passively receives the gift of faith from God.*



#2 Key Calvinist Scripture – Ephesians 2

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Non-Calvinist Understanding

- Ephesians 2:8-9

8 τῇ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε σεσωσμένοι διὰ πίστεως.
καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ὑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον.
9 οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων, ἵνα μή τις καυχῆσθαι.

πίστεως

Noun – Genitive – Singular – Feminine

τοῦτο

Pronoun – Nominative – Singular - Neuter



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feminine

X

neuter

- *Interpretation: Paul is NOT saying that faith is the gift of God and that an individual can only believe if God gives him belief.*



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Non-Calvinist Understanding

- **Ephesians 2:8-9**

For by grace you have been saved through **faith**; and **this** is not of yourselves, it is the **gift of God**; not a result of **works**, so that no one may boast.

- *Interpretation: Paul IS saying that the whole plan and process of salvation is a gift of God; it is not a result of an individual's works. One is saved by faith.*



Summary of Ephesians 2

Paul is not teaching that faith is a gift of God that He gives only to the ELECT.

Paul is teaching that salvation cannot be achieved through works but only accessed by faith. This plan of salvation is a gift of God.



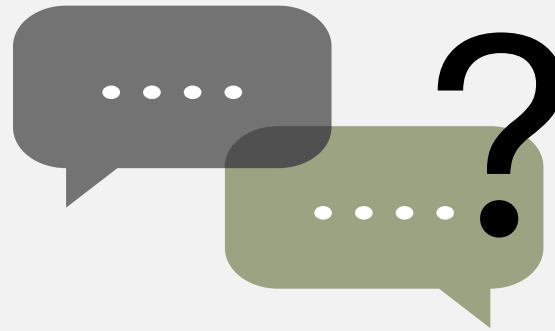
NEXT WEEK – SESSION 2

What is God's role in salvation?

Calvinism – Arminianism – Provisionism



QUESTIONS / DISCUSSION



THE END OF SESSION I

