



GRACE LEADERSHIP TRAINING Hermeneutics Project

Each student will complete a written hermeneutics project that walks through a specific passage of Scripture explaining its meaning and application.

Due: on the 2nd to last class.

Goal

Think of this project as a chance to use the principles of hermeneutics as you walk through a passage with the goal of presenting a written reflection of the meaning of the text.

The focus of this project is for you to work in a specific Bible passage to determine the author's intended meaning, and to some degree demonstrate how you arrived there. It is not for you to create or find something new or hidden in the text, but to understand what this passage means.

You may include relevant application as well.

How do we do this?

Option 1: Dr. Goepfrich's ACTS Method

Select a passage (4-8 verses). Using Dr. Goepfrich's ACTS method as outlined in your text book, work to arrive at the meaning of the text.

Option 2: An Alternative Process

This suggested process is intended to serve the goal of this project; not be a check list that you have to do, or that you have to do in this exact order.

1. Select a passage (probably 4-8 verses).
2. Read your passage multiple times (5-10) using at least 5 different translations.
3. Get the Big Picture
 - A. Genre. Identify and orient yourself to the genre of the passage you are in. How does this genre affect interpretation? Are there specific elements of hermeneutics to be aware of?
 - B. Historical context. What is the historical setting of this passage? How might this affect the author's intended meaning?
 - C. Literary context. Work within the literary contexts. Read the larger context of your passage.
 - D. Cultural context. What are the cultural factors in which this was written? How do these affect the meaning?
 - E. Argument/Flow. Trace the author's flow of thought (e.g. argument) in the larger context and in your passage.
4. Dive into the Specifics

- A. Grammar. Analyze, study, and break down the grammar as best you can.
 - B. Syntax. Ask key questions of how words, clauses and sentences relate to each other.
 - C. Develop an outline of the passage as best you can.
 - D. Study any key words/themes and see how these relate to the greater whole.
 - E. Resolve any interpretive issues and problems as best you can.
5. Consult secondary sources (e.g. good commentaries) about your passage. Sift through these observations and compare with what you have gleaned. Make adjustments as needed.
 6. Evaluate your hermeneutical conclusions/exegesis in light of the whole context of Scripture and make sure it harmonizes with the clear teaching of Scripture.
 7. Draw some principles for application as you are able.
 8. Summarize your conclusions and the results of what you found in a written form.

Your Finished Product

I want to leave some room for individual style and unique development in what your finished paper/project looks like. I also don't want to dictate what the length of this will be. Here is a suggested outline, if you need more definition on how to shape this. It's also acceptable to focus primarily on your conclusions about the text's meaning and not use this outline at all! Walk us through your passage and help us see where you arrived (what it means) and how you got there (the hermeneutical process and tools used).

- A. Introduction
- B. The Process. Talk about what you did; the process of studying the passage
- C. The Principles. Talk about the tools, principles, and pillars of hermeneutics that you used and their value.
- D. The Challenges. Detail the challenges you found in your passage and how you resolved these (if you were able to).
- E. The Resources. Talk about any outside resources you used and their value (consider a list of resources you used at the end).
- F. The Meaning. Discuss the meaning of the text and any other relevant information that helped you understand what the passage means.
- G. Your Conclusions and Application. Discuss relevant application you see in this text and any other conclusions about this project.

The real value of this assignment is walking through this process with a passage of Scripture. We do not expect a polished, publishable project when you are done! You may have challenges you can't resolve. That's okay! Please feel free to talk with me for clarifications. I am also available to help you individually as well.

Pastor Benjamin