

How to Interpret the Bible

I. Objectives

A. General Objective: To consider the principles and procedures necessary for the accurate interpretation of the Bible and to practically apply them to various types of biblical literature so that the student will be adequately equipped with the ability to arrive at the clearest and most accurate understanding of the Bible, and be able to communicate it to others.

B. Specific Objectives:

1. That the student will develop a right attitude to approaching the Word of God by having a proper understanding of:
 - a. The Nature of the Scriptures
 - b. The Student of the Scriptures
 - c. The Inspiration of the Scriptures
 - d. The Preservation of the Scriptures
2. That the student be able to identify and grasp:
 - a. Schools of Interpretation
 - i. Allegorical
 - ii. Literal
 - iii. Exceptions to Literal Interpretation

Laws of Bible Interpretation

- b. Interpret Grammatically
- c. Context
 - i. Historical context
 - ii. Cultural context
 - iii. Context of passage, book, Bible
- d. Scripture vs. Scripture
- e. Word Studies and Studying the Words of Scripture

Other Important Rules of Interpretation

- f. Dispensations
- g. Covenants
- h. Figures of Speech
- i. Symbols
- j. Literary Genre - Writing Styles
- k. Obscurity Rule
- l. Bible Names
- m. Additional Helps

II. Content

This course identifies the principles and procedures for proper and accurate biblical interpretation which produce the clearest and most accurate understanding of the Bible. It considers the main principles and general rules of biblical interpretation and,

through the weekly assignments, provides for their application upon selected Scriptures. It also presents the various types of biblical literature with the proper procedure for their interpretation.

III. Requirements

- A. Quizzes – Daily quizzes may be expected from the notes.
- B. Examinations - There will be two examinations which must be satisfactorily completed.
- C. Assignments – There will be different assignments given, where the student will be assigned a portion of Scripture for interpretation. These assignments will be handed in on time and the findings discussed in class. All assignments must be completed to satisfy the course requirements. Late assignments will attract a loss of 10% to the grade.

IV. Grading

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Class Assignments	30%
Reading Assignments	15%
Quizzes	25%
Examinations	30%

The grading system for reporting is as follows:

A	95-100%
B	85-95%
C	80-85%
D	70-80%
F	< 70%

V. Bibliography

- Sam Joukhadar, Biblical Hermeneutics I, Basic Principles
- Robert J. Sargent, Landmarks of Expository Bible Teaching, A comprehensive study in Herminutics, Bible Study, Methods, and Expository Teaching, Bible Baptist Church Publications.
- J Phillips, Bible Explorer's Guide: how to understand and interpret the Bible, Kregel Publications, 2002
- Lessons prepared and taught by Joshua Koura.