

Introduction to Hermeneutics

- **A Working Definition:** Hermeneutics has to do with the work of _____.
 - Exodus 34:29

What is Hermeneutics?

- **Let's begin with what hermeneutics is not:**
 - Hermeneutics is not strictly knowing the ancient _____
 - Hermeneutics is not squeezing some secret _____ or _____ out of a passage.
 - "The aim of good interpretation is not uniqueness; one is not trying to discover what no one else has ever seen before." – Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart.
 - Hermeneutics is not a practice in relative _____
 - Hermeneutics is not *just* application

Etymology

- The Origin of the Word Hermeneutics
 - *Implication of Greek Origin* – to effectively mediate _____, we need to be faithful to the original _____ and _____ of the information.
- Hermeneutics as it Relates to Scripture:
 - Proper hermeneutics is the _____ and _____ act of _____ and all that is necessary to do it faithfully.

What it Means to be a Bible Reader

- "The first reason one needs to learn how to interpret is that, whether one likes it or not, every reader is at the same time and _____." – Fee and Stuart
 - *To read without a proper hermeneutic means we are selectively _____ and _____ inept.*
- As Bible Readers, we are not seeking to be _____ of the text, but rather we are seeking to be mastered by the _____.

The Two Characteristics of Scripture

- **First, Scripture is _____ Relevant**
 - God's Word is for all people throughout all of time. It will never be outdated or impotent.
 - Matthew 24:35
- **Second, Scripture has _____ particularity**
 - Each book is conditioned by the time, place, people and circumstances surrounding the text.
 - **"Interpretation of the Bible is demanded by the 'tension' that exists between its eternal relevance and its historical particularity."** – Fee and Stuart

The Parable of the Sower

- Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
 - v. 23 – "As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it..."
 - Main Point: **to be sown on the good _____ is to _____ and _____ the Word.**
- The Hermeneutic Behind Each Seed:
 - Vv. 4, 19 – Two Hermeneutical Types:
 - Hermeneutic of _____ - or hostility
 - This is a perspective that finds the Bible itself, or its effects, to be dangerous to human freedom, and the quest for truth.
 - Hermeneutic of _____ or Noncommitment
 - Sees God's Word from strictly a literary or historical perspective, but remove the sacred religious components
 - Vv. 5, 20-21 – Hermeneutic of _____
 - One who hears the truth but does not understand.
 - Vv. 7, 22 – Hermeneutic of _____
 - One who hears and understands but prioritizes earthy concern.
 - Vv. 8-9, 23 – Hermeneutic of _____
 - Submits to God with humility, trusting fully in his perfect and holy Word. This is the kind of reader that allows God's Word to speak for itself, and searches for meaning in between the eternal relevance of the passage and the historical particularities of the passage.