

MAB811 HERMENEUTICS

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this course is to help students read the Bible with increased clarity and understanding. The Scriptures are God's Word to us, to His Church, and to all men. They demand our respect and attention. The Scriptures are a unique combination of both human and divine authors. God's Word is unique; there is no other book like it. Also, as it was written by men, inspired by the Spirit, it follows the personality, culture, and literary rules of the time in which it was written. A good exegete will understand both of these aspects as he seeks to comprehend God's message.

COURSE CONTENT

The course is divided into eight lessons. The first lesson focuses on the general approach this course will take. It also contains a historical section. The remaining chapters focus on structural principles and rules for the various genres (types of literature) found in Scripture.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course seeks to aid the student in his study and understanding of the skills necessary for proper hermeneutics in order to gain an understanding of Scripture.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

This course has been organized into eight consecutive modules. The modules should be studied in order.

BENEFITS OF THIS COURSE

The benefits of this course are to learn how to properly interpret Scripture, thus enabling the student to preach and teach the Word of God correctly. By so doing, we gain the mind of Christ.

INTRODUCTION

Hermeneutics concerns the rules or guidelines used to properly interpret Scripture. The word 'hermeneutics' comes from the Greek word *hermeneuein*, which means to explain or interpret. It is used in Luke when the risen Jesus interpreted Scripture to the two on the Emmaus road. They, and the other disciples, had been reading the Old Testament, but they had not understood it. They had misread it and as a result, they had completely failed to understand the work of the Messiah. It is vital to interpret Scripture correctly. A failure to read the Old Testament correctly meant that the two disciples, on the road to Emmaus, did not understand that Christ had to suffer, die, and then be raised on the third day, which is the very heart of Christianity.

The inspired apostle, Peter, who was mightily blessed with the Spirit said that Paul wrote things that were difficult for him to understand. Unfortunately, Church history

shows us that many great saints had faulty interpretations. Mickelsen notes: "The illumination of the Spirit is essential, but such illumination by the Spirit can be hindered by our wrong approach to Scripture." This course seeks to offer a biblical approach which will help us to properly interpret the text.

There are many possible approaches that can be used in a hermeneutics course, but in this course, we will follow a simple threefold approach.

The first objective is to find the *author's intention*. What does God want us to know from the text? To do this, we need to understand that the message *is anchored in history*. God spoke through inspired human authors, in a particular time and place and through the cultural forms of the period. To find the meaning of the text we must ask: What did the message mean to the original writer and readers of the text, in that specific time and period of redemptive history?

Finally, once we have the meaning offered to the original audience, we should *apply that message* to ourselves today. In this process, we make a clear distinction between the original message by the original authors and hearers and how we apply the same message to ourselves today.

Learn more by purchasing the entire course that covers the following topics:

Lesson One: Introduction and Basic Method

Lesson Two: Narrative And Word Studies

Lesson Three: Covenant And The Law

Lesson Four: Prophecy, Typology

Lesson Five: Hebrew Poetry

Lesson Six: Parables

Lesson Seven: Paul's Epistles

Lesson Eight: New Testament Prophecy And Apocalyptic Literature