

HERMENEUTICS

Getting on Target - (Meditation) Decide what it means

The interpretive Process

- **Careful Observation**
 - Don't be in a hurry – there's no such thing as instant understanding of scripture
 - Immerse yourself in the book with several readings – treat it like a love letter.
 - Approach it like a reporter
 - Who – writing audience, about
 - What – literary form, topic
 - When – taking place
 - Where – taking place, is he going, taking us
 - Why – written, is he angry, excited, disappointed, etc...?
 - How – presents the subject, affect on my life, does it relate to today

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- **Consider Word Meanings**
 - Remember we are trying to get at the mind behind the words Two paths –
 - Original language – Class 3
 - English dictionary
 - Get a good English dictionary – Webster, Am. Heritage w/ etymology
 - Check out some basic biblical terms in an English dictionary
 - Then check an expository dictionary – Vines
 - Be a good detective – don't take anything for granted
 - Consider grammar – parts of speech, syntax, etc

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- **Ask interpretive Questions and think through to conclusions**
 - Be a detective – ask questions – it doesn't mean you lack faith
- **Anchor the Interpretation in the Application of interpretive principles**
 - Don't get lost. Use the rules to keep you from getting lost in the process
 - Be sure your conclusions fit
 - Remember this:
 - The Bible is meant to be understood – God has revealed to us that we might know what he has freely given to us
 - Much of it is easy to understand
 - It has depths that are difficult
 - It leaves some questions unanswered

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- **Hitting the Bulls Eye - (Interpretation) - Draw Some Conclusions – Look for Principles**
- **You Must be Spiritual – Jn. 6:63, Cor. 2:14**
 - We cannot worship God with our mind, will and emotions
 - The Bible is more than words on paper – Jb. 11:7
 - The Natural Man
 - The Carnal Man
 - The Spiritual Man

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- You Must be Consecrated

- 2Cor.3:18 – Heart must be open
- Our eye must be single – Mt 6:22
- Obedience must be persistent

- You Must be Exercised

- Heb.5:14 – By reason of use – on account of habit
- We cannot consume whole food if we are not accustomed to it
- Be skillful and well trained in the word
- Be aware of pitfalls
 - Don't be subjective – filled with own thoughts, opinions and ideas
 - Don't be careless – The Bible is a very accurate book right to the word
 - Don't be over curious – don't look for strange things...lighter matters