

# ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## BIB 532 Hermeneutics

Mark McLean  
mcleanm@evangel.edu

Summer II 2004

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The student learns both principles and skills of interpreting scripture in terms of historical, social and literary environments, and the process of applying the meaning to today's needs. The history of hermeneutics is also covered. A special feature concentrates on Pentecostal issues.

### OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course the student should be competent in the following areas of hermeneutics:

1. The student will know the skills needed for proper general hermeneutics and special hermeneutics.
2. The student will be acquainted with the history of biblical interpretation and the techniques employed at various times throughout that history.
3. The student will be familiar with the worldviews of liberal, neo-orthodox and orthodox wings of the Church, and how these worldviews affect their interpretation of the Scripture.
4. The student will have applied the principles of hermeneutics to the exegesis of a passage and the creation of a sermon.
5. The student will be cognizant of the terms and vocabulary associated with the field of hermeneutics.

### TEXTBOOKS

#### ***Required:***

Adler, Mortimer J. and Van Doren, Charles. *How to Read a Book*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1972.

Kelsey, David. *Proving Doctrine: The uses of Scripture in Modern Theology*. Harrisburg, PA. 1999. BT89.K44-1999. ISBN: 1-56338-283-0.

Soulen, Richard N and Soulen, R. Kendall. *Handbook of Biblical Criticism*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1999.

*Supplemental Readings for Courses with Professor Mark D McLean.* Evangel University, Biblical Studies and Philosophy Department, Bookstore <#30747> , rev. Jan 1999.

## **BASIC OUTLINE**

### I. Introduction:

- A. Who needs to be a theologian
- B. How to Read a Book
- C. General Hermeneutics
- D. Special Hermeneutics
- E. Worldviews

### II. The History of Biblical Interpretation

- A. Jewish Interpretation
- B. Apostolic
- C. Patristic
- D. Medieval
- E. Reformation
- F. Modern

### III. Canonical Issues

- A. Hebrew Bible
- B. The New Testament
- C. Establishing the text

### IV. Genres

- A. Introduction to Genre
- B. Historical-Narrative
- C. Prophecy & Apocalyptic
- D. Typology
- E. Wisdom & Poetry
- F. Gospels
- G. Parables
- H. Epistles

### V. Application of Hermeneutics

- A. Construal of Scripture
- B. Applications

## **METHODOLOGY**

- A. The student will perform individual reading, research, and writing.
- B. Lectures will include questions to and from the students.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Completion of all ***assigned reading*** prior to the class in which they are to be discussed.
2. Write an exegetical paper and a corresponding sermon with application.
3. Midterm and final exam.

***NOTE: Late work will be penalized at the rate of 1/2 letter grade for every day of lateness.***

## **GRADING PROCEDURE**

Grading will be a strict 100-90 A, 89-80 B, 79-70 B, 69-60 D and 59 and below F.  
The grading guidelines dated 10/17/90 will be followed.

## **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Baker, D. L. *Two Testaments, One Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1976.
- Berkhof, L. *Principles of Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1950.
- Blomberg, C., Klein, W. and Hubbard, R. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Waco, TX: Word Publishing, 1993
- Bullinger, E. W. *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible Explained and Illustrated*. 1898; reprint ed., Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1968.
- Caird, G. B. *The Language and Imagery of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1980.
- Carson, D.A. *Exegetical Fallacies*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984.
- Carson, D. A., and John D. Woodbridge, eds. *Hermeneutics, Authority, and Canon*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.
- Cohen, Aryeh, and Shaul Magid. *Beginning/Again: Toward a Hermeneutics of Jewish Texts*. New York: Seven Bridges Press, 2002.
- Fee, Gordon, and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth. A Guide to Understanding the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982.
- Fee, Gordon. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1983.
- Gasque, W. Ward, and William Sanford LeSor. *Scripture, Tradition and Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1978.
- Grant, Robert, and David Tracy. *A Short History of the Interpretation of the Bible*. 2nd ed.

- Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984.
- Glynn, John. *Commentary & Reference Survey: A Comprehensive Guide to Biblical and Theological Resources*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2003.
- Johnson, Elliott, E. *Expository Hermeneutics: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *The Uses of the Old Testament in the New*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1985.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Toward An Exegetical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Toward an Exegetical Theology: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching*. 1st paperback ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1998.
- Lee, Han Young. *From Historical Criticism to Narrative Hermeneutics in Old Testament Studies: An Epistemological Evaluation of Theoretical Problems Studies in Biblical Literature*, V. 64. New York: Peter Lang, 2004.
- Larkin, William J. *Culture and Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1988.
- Longenecker, Richard N. *New Testament Social Ethics for Today*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984.
- Longman, Tremper, III. *Literary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation*. In *Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation*, ed. Moises Silva, Vol. 3. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.
- Marshall, I. Howard, Kevin J. Vanhoozer, and Stanley E. Porter. *Beyond the Bible: Moving from Scripture to Theology*. Acadia Studies in Bible and Theology. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004.
- Marshall, I. Howard, ed. *New Testament Interpretation: Essays on Principles and Methods*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1977.
- Mickelsen, A. Berkeley. *Interpreting the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1963.
- Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1991.
- Penchansky, David. *The Politics of Biblical Theology: A Postmodern Reading*. Studies in American Biblical Hermeneutics; 10. Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 1995.
- Ramm, Bernard ed. *Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1971.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Protestant Biblical Interpretation: A Textbook of Hermeneutics*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1970.
- Ryken, Leland. *How to Read the Bible as Literature*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.

Silva, Moises. *God, Language and Scripture: Reading the Bible in the Light of General Linguistics*. Vol. 4 in *Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation*. Edited by Moises Silva. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.

Silva, Moisés. *Biblical Words and Their Meaning: An Introduction to Lexical Semantics*. Rev. and expanded ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1994.

Sterrett, N. T. *How to Understand Your Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1974.

Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Primer for Students and Pastors*. 2d ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1984.

Tate, W. Randolph. *Biblical Interpretation: An Integrated Approach*. Rev. ed. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1997.

Terry, Milton S. *Biblical Hermeneutics: A Treatise on the Interpretation of the Old and New Testaments*. Reprint ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1974.

Voelz, James W. *What Does This Mean? Principles of Biblical Interpretation in the Post-Modern World*. 2nd ed. Concordia Scholarship Today. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Pub. House, 1997.

Webb, William J. *Slaves, Women and Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2001.

Wenham, John W. *Christ and the Bible*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1972.

Yong, Amos. *Spirit-Word-Community: Theological Hermeneutics in Trinitarian Perspective*. *Ashgate New Critical Thinking in Religion, Theology, and Biblical Studies*. Aldershot, Hants, England; Burlington, Vt.: Ashgate, 2002.

## **SPECIFIC DATA**

**Syllabus Prepared by Mark McLean, PhD, March 5, 2004**