



You may not know this, but biblical interpretation is a hot topic among Christians today. The field of biblical interpretation is properly called hermeneutics (pronounced “herm-in-oo-tics”). It answers the question, “What did the author mean when he said this?” You witness hermeneutics every time you hear our pastors preach, during communion meditations, in your smallgroup when Scripture is discussed and when receiving counsel from God’s word. You also practice hermeneutics every time you read your Bible or remind yourself about what God has said. But hermeneutics is not limited to interpreting the Bible. We use hermeneutics every single time we communicate with anyone. The issue is not whether or not we need hermeneutics, but how well we practice this basic human function of language. Since God has communicated with us through His word, the Bible, how we interpret language becomes an indispensable part of the Christian life.

The Forest and the Trees by Michael Riccardi is an excellent introduction to hermeneutics. Riccardi explains the overarching purpose of the Bible and how to avoid common, modern-day pit falls in interpreting Scripture. This 55-page book will only strengthen your ability to interact with God’s word for your own heart and for the good of others.

Suggested One-Month Reading Plan (about 4 pages per day)

Week 1: Monday, the 5th – Sunday, the 11th

- The Point of the Story – 8 pages

Week 2: Monday, the 12th – Sunday, the 18th

- The Greatest Story Ever Told - 18 pages

Week 3: Monday, the 19th – Sunday, the 25th

- The Forest and the Trees - 16 pages

Week 4: Monday, the 26th – Sunday, April 1st

- Christ in the Old Testament - 15 pages
- Appendix: An Overview of the Biblical Covenants

OTHER RESOURCES ON HERMENEUTICS

Since this month’s BOM is only 55-pages, try taking some time to access the following resources.

SERMONS & LECTURES

Scott Maxwell - “Hermeneutical Presuppositions” from Build 2017

(<http://www.gbcaz.org/resources/build-d5-the-hermeneutic-hermeneutical-presuppositions-2/>)

Scott Maxwell - Leviticus 19 sermon series

(<http://www.gbcaz.org/series/leviticus19-series/>)

- A 12-part sermon series that Scott preached as the culmination of his doctoral program in 2008

Jon Anderson - “Authority and Reality in Biblical Interpretation”

(<http://www.gibcjupiter.org/pages/sermons/detail/sermon/3679>)

Jon Anderson - “Lessons from Martin Luther: The Bible, Clarity & Interpretation”

(<http://www.gibcjupiter.org/pages/sermons/detail/sermon/3523>)

Jon Anderson - “The Literal Meaning of the Old Testament”

(<http://www.gibcjupiter.org/pages/sermons/detail/sermon/3331>)

Matt Waymeyer - “A Crash Course on Biblical Hermeneutics”

(<http://www.gibcjupiter.org/pages/sermons/detail/sermon/3236>)

The first of a 3-part series on foundational biblical interpretation