

D5: The Hermeneutic - Honoring the Lord in our Bible Reading

Introduction:

I. Prepare your heart before reading God's word

1. Agree with God about His nature (Rev 4:8; Psalm 19:1-2)
2. Agree with God about the sanctifying effect of His word (John 17:17; Heb 4:12)
3. Agree with God about your nature (Eph 2:1-3; Gal 5:17; Rom 6:4)
4. Agree with God about your purpose for reading His word (Phil 1:9-11; 2 Cor 5:9)

II. Use self-control while reading God's word

1. Expect a single meaning in a passage (Is 45:18-19; Deut 29:29)

2. Hold fast to the normal use of words and language

Literal - use the literal meaning of words and sentences (John 1:1; 1:4; 10:9)

Grammatical - use good grammar (Eph 4:14-16)

Historical - consider the historical context

3. Observe your passage before you interpret it
4. Understand the difference between interpretation and application
5. Entrust yourself to God's wisdom (Is 55:8; 66:1-2)
6. Trust in the sufficiency of God's word (2 Pet 1:3)
7. Read the full counsel of Scripture (2 Tim 3:10-17)
8. Recognize God's purpose in genealogies and records (Matt 1:2-16; Luke 3:23-38; 1Chron 1-8)

III. Counsel your heart after reading God's word