

Equipping Hour Bible 101

What will we be looking at over the next 5 weeks?

- 1) **The Importance of a Right Bibliology.**
- 2) **Inspiration** - How was the Bible written?
- 3) **Canonization** - How were the various books of the Bible collected and placed together in one book? Did we get it right? Are there missing books? Are there books in the Bible that should not be there?
- 4) **Preservation** - Has the Bible been handed down to us faithfully? Whose job is it to make sure the Bible is preserved accurately?
- 5) **Textual Criticism** - Since the original manuscripts of the Bible do not exist, how do we know for sure that our copies of copies of copies accurately represent the originals? Textual criticism is the science of re-creating the original manuscripts.

Can we trust the Bible? Is it reliable? Are there errors, contradictions, human insertions?

Bible 101, part 1: The Importance of a Right Bibliology

A little experiment.

Bibliology —> Bible-ology —> the study of the Bible. What the Bible is, what the Bible is like.

The Bible:

39+27=66. Written over the span of nearly two millennia (depending on the date of the writing of Job;

The Pentateuch was written in the 1400's B.C.).

Old Testament / New Testament - one book with one Author.

Dual authorship: author/Author.

The Bible is God's Word. Implications: inerrancy, clarity, authority, sufficiency.

Bibliology is the foundation of all the "ologies".

The Bible is the source, authority, content for life and for doctrine:

theology

parenting

missions

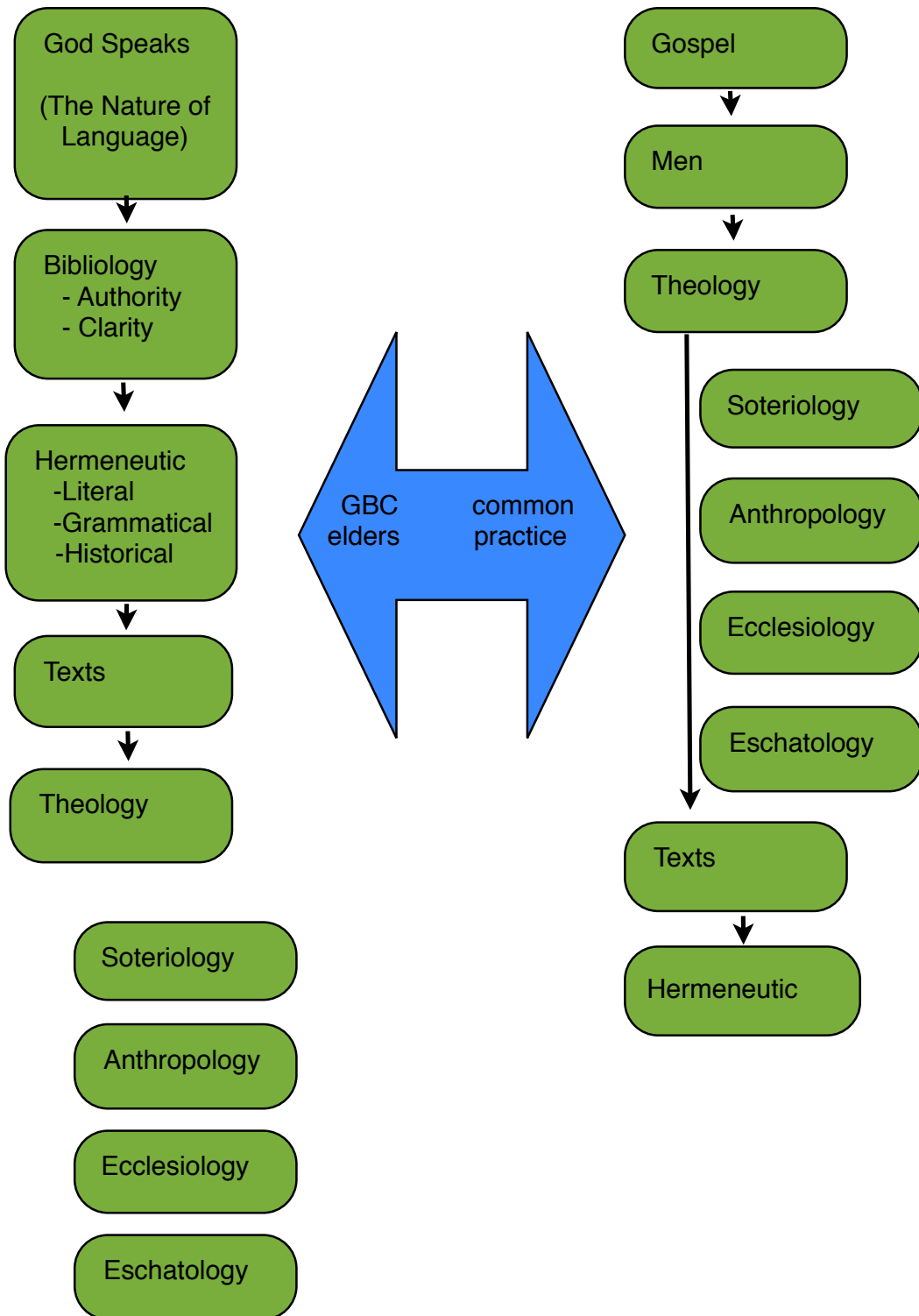
counseling

apologetics

If you get your Bibliology wrong, eventually you will start leaking in the other areas.

What is the relationship of Exegesis to Systematic Theology?

Doctrinal Formation



Are we to employ theological systems, creeds, traditions, *a priori* theological commitments as interpretive lenses over texts of Scripture?

Dr. George Zemek - theology is to be "exegetically derived, systematically expressed."

The Bible is not an impressionistic painting, with inarticulate, unintelligible brushstrokes that can only be understood by backing up, zooming out, and getting a bigger picture. No, the Bible is more like a hi-def photograph. The closer you look, the more details you see. The whole picture is important! And the details are important, too, since the big picture is made up of the details. The better you understand the details, the better they contribute to your understanding of the whole.

Scripture can withstand close scrutiny precisely because the big picture is made up of the details.

If your theological system cannot withstand the truth of a single verse in Scripture, the system is wrong.

What is your personal epistemology?

Epistemology is the study of knowledge; or how we know what we know.

Is your epistemology: revelational or rational?
 dependent or autonomous?
 humble or rebellious?

Let's think through the implications of the Bible's being the very Word of God:

Inerrancy (Titus 1:2).

All of its words and all of its parts. *Inerrancy*.

Wayne Grudem (*Systematic Theology*, 91) "The inerrancy of Scripture means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact."

The Bible claims inerrancy for itself

Psalm 19:7-9

Psalm 119:89

John 10:35

Some helpful clarifications on inerrancy:

Inerrancy does not mean that the Bible gives us exhaustive knowledge on every subject it covers.

Inerrancy does not mean that that the Bible conforms to modern scientific classifications.

The Bible can speak from the perspective of the speaker (Copernicus and Galileo).

The Bible may use approximations of values and measurements (2 Kings 19:35 – 185k Assyrians woke up dead)

The Bible may make use of ordinary language to describe natural phenomena.

What inerrancy does mean: the Bible speaks truthfully about everything it speaks about.

Denial of inerrancy has consequences:

God can and does lie.

Can we trust any part of the Bible?

To deny inerrancy is to deny one of the Bible's own doctrines. The denial of inerrancy does not therefore merely affect scientific and archaeological accuracy; it affects doctrine as well.

Ultimately we become the standard for what is true.

Clarity (perspicuity)

The Bible was written to be:

understood (Revelation 1:3)

meditated upon (Psalm 1:2)

obeyed (commands in the Bible)

taught (Psalm 119:130)

Objective and subjective perspicuity -

Barriers to subjective perspicuity:

- categorical unbelief (1Corinthians 2:14; Romans 1:21)

- residual unbelief (Luke 24:25).

- sin obscures (unsanctified attitudes, behaviors, idolatries).

- wrong bibliology leading to wrong hermeneutic can keep you from understanding what God has clearly spoken.

- Satanic blindness (2 Corinthians 4:4)

- God's judicial blindness (Matthew 13:11; Romans 1:24, 26, 28)

The Scriptures themselves have the power to overcome our precommitments, our biases, and our "situatedness".

Authority - The Bible's own claim: these are the very words of God.
(contra neo-orthodoxy)

"Thus says the Lord..."; "in the name of the Lord"

2 Timothy 3:16 *theopneustos*, or "breathed out"

2 Peter 1:21 "men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." Dual authorship.

Consider Jesus' use of Scripture as authoritative during His temptation by Satan in the wilderness (Matthew 4).