Hermeneutics
The Art and Science of Interpreting the Bible

Hermeneutics - the Greek "hermeneuo" means to translate, interpret. Comes from Hermes, the Greek messenger god, Acts 14:12, "Barnabus they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker.

Bible - comes from the Greek and Latin, biblia which means books. The Bible is a book of books. The Bible is a book of sacred scriptures that Jews and Christians believe is the product of Divine inspiration, II Timothy 3:16.

Hermeneutical Question:
Why do we need the Bible to be in Written form?
1. The message can be preserved for future generations
2. Much easier to understand it's meaning
3. We don't have to depend upon someone to tell us what's in the Bible. We can read it for ourselves.

Biblical Study Tools:
1. Bible/Study Bible. There are many versions. Some versions focus on translation of the original text. Other versions are more concerned about the reader understanding the context.

John 14:2,
In my Father's house are many mansions, KJV
My Father's house has many rooms, NIV
In My Father's house are many dwelling places, NASB
There is plenty of room for you in my Father's home, Message Bible
2. Concordance (words) - an alphabetical listings of words found in the Bible and shows where the words occur throughout all the books of the Bible. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance is the most widely known and used and includes Hebrew and Greek dictionaries for a better understanding of the original meaning.

3. Concordance (topical) - a reference for topics and characters of the Bible, such as Naves Topical.

4. Commentaries - provides explanation and interpretation of biblical texts based upon the writers belief and understanding. Commentaries are not inspired writings.

5. Bible Dictionary - provides a collection of definitions and explanation biblical topics.

6. Maps - By knowing the geography of the lands discussed in the Bible, you can better understand scriptural events.

7. Google - you can find almost anything about the Bible; word meanings, commentaries, maps, etc.

8. Lexicon - a book containing an alphabetical arrangement of words in a language and their definitions

9. Pastor/Teacher, Ephesians 4:11, 12

10. Holy Spirit & Prayer
Hermeneutical Principles

1. Literal Interpretation. Means exactly what it says. When interpreting a scripture, always begin with the literal. Example: John 3:16

2. Figurative Interpretation. When the literal is not possible because it violates natural laws and rational understanding then interpret the scripture figuratively. Figurative language uses similes, metaphors, hyperbole, and personification to describe something often through comparison with something different. Examples: Revelation 5:6, Judges 9:8-15

- Similes - Compares two or more things oftentimes using words "like" or "as." Example: Matthew 13.

- Metaphor - Compares two or more things using figurative language without using "like" or "as." Examples, John 6:35-51, John 10:14

- Hyperbole - Exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally. Examples, I Corinthians 13

### John 21:15-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verse</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Greek</th>
<th>Strong's</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15. When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”</td>
<td>Love</td>
<td>Agapē</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”</td>
<td>Love</td>
<td>Phileō</td>
<td>5368</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”</td>
<td>Love</td>
<td>Phileō</td>
<td>5368</td>
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• Proverbs - A short saying that expresses a general truth for practical, godly living. The word means to be like. Example, the book of Proverbs.

• Allegory - A story in which the characters and/or events are symbols representing other events, ideas, or people. As a parable is an extended simile, so an allegory is an extended metaphor. Example, John 15:1-17.

Difficult or Misunderstood Bible Passages

1. "For the love of money is the root of all evil:" 1 Tim. 6:10

2. "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt. 18:20

3. "Judge not, that ye be not judged." Matt. 7:1

4. "There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest." Job 3:17

5. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3 John 2

6. “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Mark 16:16