

Hermeneutics/Biblical Interpretation

Understanding the intended context of the past to reveal a righteous context for the future.

[1] Semester/Spring 2023

Weekly Video Lecture (Individual Download)

Weekly Group Forum (Zoom) 6:30pm MST

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Isaac ThD. [steve.isaac@fullyequippedbibleinstitute.org]

Office Hours: Fridays 8:00am to 10:00am MST - Virtual Conferencing Possible

Grading: [Participation and Engagement Group Forum, Scholarship of Work (APA format and references), Weekly Assignments and Final Exam/Hermeneutic Interpretive Project

(3) - credit hours

I. Biblical Hermeneutics:

The purpose of this course is to inspire the genuine passion and pursuit of rightly interpreting Biblical truth for the sole interest of determining a righteous context for present day use. Biblical Hermeneutics will greatly assist the experienced Christian leader, teacher and pastor in the conscious pursuit of a more accurate Biblical interpretation and contextual fidelity to the Word of truth.

II. Course Aims and Outcomes:

Aims

The goal of any Biblical or evangelical hermeneutics is basic - discovering the intended meaning of the Holy Spirit inspired author. To that process this course seeks to provide the student with an academic and scholarly platform for the interpretation and context of Biblical text. This skillful approach to Scripture helps constitute the pitfalls of personal interpretation that often lead to misinterpretation and inaccuracies (intentional and non-intentional). As a Christian leader and communicator of Biblical truth the veracity and accuracy of ones understanding, and interpretation is critical. This course equips the student seeking that high level of integrity and discipline.

Specific Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Gain a comfortable and consistent hermeneutical process used for learning, retention, and communicating Biblical principles with a high degree of confidence and humility – both are necessary.
- Discover the possibilities that exist when the Word of God comes to life not only through the experience of spiritual revelation but through the contexts of historical, cultural, and author’s inspiration and intent.
- Experience comprehension and application for literal and figurative interpretations while being exposed to the significance of systematic research as it applies to a more correct and comprehensive understanding.
- Become familiar and efficient with Biblical interpretive factors such as the contextualization of time, culture, geography, and language.
- Learn the importance of hermeneutics as the rightful guide in moving from context, to text, to context, to allow the God-inspired meaning of the Word to speak today with as fresh and dynamic a relevance as it had in its original setting.
- Develop a consistency in the introductory use of exegesis and its synonymous relationship with the Biblical hermeneutics process of contextualization: placement, bridging, and relevant usage
- To influence expansion and confidence in the student’s cognitive process for interpreting, receiving, and communicating Biblical principles, theological standards, and Scriptural apologetics.
- To connect and convert the need for skillful interpretation of Scripture to the moral, ethical, and emotional dilemmas of our day. Proclaiming a rightly divided and interpreted truth to the cultural crisis of faith within the Church. Restore trust and respect to the calling of pastor, teacher, preacher, and Christian leader.
- Finally, to encourage the development of hermeneutical psychomotor skills into a productive and enlightening relationship with seeking the wisdom of God and the revelation of His Spirit in comprehending and communicating the Bible’s profound truth.

III. Format and Procedures:

This course is structured to maximize learning through a blended and healthy platform of auditory, visual, and tactile environments. The course will also include project-based learning utilizing both blended and individual formats. Engaged participation in all elements is expected and will be a significant part of the grading evaluation. Each student is required to contribute. The social tone for the classroom is expected to be respectful and kind. Healthy debate is appropriate and welcomed – argumentative and confrontational dogma are not. Prayer and mutual concern are also a welcomed component to the learning community.

12 (Weeks) - Biblical Hermeneutics Group Forum: - Virtual Format (Reading and Lecture Review, PTQI, Assignment Review, Assignment Preview)

11 (Weeks) - Weekly Lesson Lecture: Pre-Recorded Downloadable Digital Video Format (Lecture, Weekly Reading Assignment, PowerPoint Slides, and Misc. Topical Resources and Templates)

2 (Weeks) Hermeneutic Passage Project: Prep, Process, and Presentation Project Passage Selection, Possible Group Work, Identified and objective Task Support, observed evaluations, Class Review, student evaluation and critique

IV. Assumptions

As a graduate level course, Biblical Hermeneutics will be approached with higher academic standards and expectations. The standards for reading and writing for the course are aggressive but certainly manageable. General knowledge of AP style writing, exegetic and hermeneutic processes, as well as possessing a comfortable level of navigating Greek and Hebrew word study applications. It is also assumed that students should have access and navigation skills for at least an intermediate level of Bible Software. The expectations are that of students and lifelong learners to be just that – students and life-long learners. The course is designed to further enlighten and equip the self-motivated as well as the emotionally and spiritually intelligent individual. The curriculum and course are constructed for those who not only have faith in God but love His Word and seek His truth. Some of the operational definitions and core concepts are unique to the instructor – but certainly not unique to sound Biblical doctrine and theological practices.

V. Course Requirements:

1. Class attendance and participation policy: Class attendance and engagement are required and are a strong consideration in final grade.
2. Course readings:
 - (a) Required Text: ***Critical Considerations*** by Dr. Stephen Isaac (Available for purchase on Amazon)
 - (b) Optional Resource Reading: *The Hermeneutical Spiral* by Grant R. Osborne, *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation (Third Edition)* by William W. Klein, Craig L. Bloomberg, Robert L. Hubbard; *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes* by E. Randolph Richards and Brandon J. O'Brien (specified sections to be digitally provided)
3. Assignments based on required and selected reading, text interpretation, writing and collaborative learning.

4. Assignments, Projects and Presentations requiring exegesis and hermeneutical interpretation of scripture will be done using NASB and ESV translation.
5. Final Exam based on the individual research, layout, of a written presentation of an assigned Biblical text.

VI. Grading Procedures

Grade options for earning (3) credits will be based on:

- (a) Participation and Engagement (30%)
- (b) Writing and Reading (30%)
- (c) Quality of Work/Assignments (20%)
- (d) Final Presentation Project (20%)

VII. Academic Integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Primus University of Theology Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work (plagiarism software is standard). For this course, collaboration is allowed in the following instances: Assigned Blended Projects within Virtual Classroom.

Students will receive reduced credit for a plagiarized assignment or project. The Academic Dean of Primus will also be notified. Consequences for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course.

VIII. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

In compliance with the Primus University of Theology policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic considerations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made.

IX. Inclusivity Statement

We understand that our members represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. Primus University of Theology is committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- be open to the views of others.
- honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this community.
- value each other's opinions and communicate in a respectful manner.
- keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.
- use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the Primus community.

X. Course Schedule

[Based on a graduate course level schedule – (12) group forum sessions meet once a week for ninety-minutes and requires students to keep a digital journal - (12) twenty-five minute pre-recorded digital and downloadable lectures]

(May change to accommodate guest presenters, instructor & student needs)

Topics and Content	Required Readings to be discussed in Class	One Journal or Post Entry	Written Assignment
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<p><u>Week One</u></p> <p>PTQI</p> <p>1. Hermeneutics Group Forum - 6:30 pm MST</p> <p>2. Biblical Hermeneutics: Critical Considerations Weekly Lecture</p> <p>3. <u>Project</u> <u>Passage</u> <u>Selections:</u> [Romans 3:21-26] [Ephesians 2:1-10] [Hebrews 10:19-25] [Colossians 1:15-20] [2 Corinthians 5:11-21]</p>	<p><u>Critical</u> <u>Considerations</u> by Dr. Stephen Isaac</p> <p>Read: Introduction and Critical Consideration One: The Interpretive Process - Defining Meaningful Distinctions</p> <p>Read prior to the start of the 1st Group Forum)</p>	<p><u>PTQI</u></p> <p>Prepare a Thought, Question, or Insight for the weekly forum session. (Must be concise and pertain to weekly reading, writing, lecture or research)</p>	<p><u>Due:</u></p> <p>Write a page about yourself and your relations hip ip with the written Word of God. (How does the Bible impact your daily life)</p>
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<u>Week Two</u>	<u>Critical Considerations</u>	<u>PTQI</u>	<u>Due:</u>
<p>PTQI</p> <p>1. Hermeneutics Group Forum - 6:30pm MST</p> <p>2. Biblical Hermeneutics: Critical Considerations Weekly Lecture and PP review</p> <p>3. Building a Hermeneutical Plan 4-Gathering effective interpretive resources 5-<u>Project Passage Selections:</u> [Romans 3:21-26] [Ephesians 2:1-10] [Hebrews 10:19-25] [Colossians 1:15-20] [2 Corinthians 5:11-21]</p>	<p><i>by Dr. Stephen Isaac</i></p> <p>Read: Critical Consideration Two - The Approach: Inductive and Deductive</p> <p>Read and Review Weekly PP Notes:</p> <p>Review and select: Example Hermeneutic Plans (All reading prior to the start of the 2nd Group Forum)</p>	<p>Prepare a Thought, Question, or Insight for the weekly forum session. (Must be concise and pertain to weekly reading, writing, lecture or research)</p>	<p>Write an inductive paragraph on a familiar passage of Scripture. Cite at least one interpretive conclusion and explain why your relationship to that passage is important to you.</p>

<p><u>Week Three</u></p> <p>PTQI</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hermeneutics Group Forum - 6:30pm MST 2. Biblical Hermeneutics: Weekly Lecture Discussion and PP review 3. Building a Hermeneutical Plan [continued] 	<p><u>Critical Considerations</u> <i>by Dr. Stephen Isaac</i></p> <p>Read: Critical Consideration Three: Pre-Conceptions and Pre-Suppositions</p> <p>Read and Review Weekly PP; Example Hermeneutic Plans, Example Thesis Page</p> <p>(All reading prior to the start of the 3rd Group Forum)</p>	<p><u>PTQI</u></p> <p>Prepare a Thought, Question, or Insight for the weekly forum session. (Must be concise and pertain to weekly reading, writing, lecture, or research) `</p>	<p><u>Due:</u> First Draft of your personal Hermeneutical Plan</p> <p>Identify and Submit From your Project Passage in any Pre-Conceptions or Pre-Suppositions You Might Have.</p>
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<p><u>Week Four</u></p> <p><u>PTQI</u></p> <p><u>1. Hermeneutics Group Forum - 6:30pm MST</u></p> <p><u>2. Biblical Hermeneutics: Weekly Lecture Discussion and PP review</u></p> <p><u>3. Implementing your Hermeneutical Plan</u></p>	<p><u>Critical Considerations</u> <i>by Dr. Stephen Isaac</i></p> <p>Read: Critical Consideration Four: Meaning - Issues of Authors Intent and Student Interpretation</p> <p>Read and Review PP Notes: Example Syntactical Structure with Key Word and Inductive Conclusion (All reading prior to the start of the 4th Group Forum)</p>	<p><u>PTQI</u></p> <p>Prepare a Thought, Question, or Insight for the weekly forum session. (Must be concise and pertain to weekly reading, writing, lecture or research)</p>	<p><u>Due:</u></p> <p>Final Draft of your personal Hermeneutical Plan</p> <p>Using Two Verses from your Project Passage:</p> <p>One Construct a Syntactical Structure with Key Words and Inductive Statements/Conclusions</p>
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<p><u>Week Five</u></p> <p><u>PTQI</u></p> <p><u>1. Hermeneutics Group Forum - 6:30pm MST</u></p> <p><u>2. Biblical Hermeneutics: Weekly Lecture Discussion and PP review</u></p> <p><u>3. Implementing your Hermeneutical Plan</u></p>	<p><u>Critical Considerations</u> <i>by Dr. Stephen Isaac</i></p> <p>Read: Critical Consideration Five: Contextualization - From Context to Text - Text to Text - Text to Context</p> <p>Read and Review Weekly PP Notes: Sample Thesis Page (All reading prior to the start of the 5th Group Forum)</p>	<p><u>PTQI</u></p> <p>Prepare a Thought, Question, or Insight for the weekly forum session. (Must be concise and pertain to weekly reading, writing, lecture or research)</p>	<p><u>Due:</u></p> <p>Thesis Page A one page thesis of the Project Passage you have chosen</p>
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<p>Week Six</p> <p>PTQI</p> <p>1. Hermeneutics Group Forum - 6:30pm MST</p> <p>2. Biblical Hermeneutics: Weekly Lecture Discussion and PP review</p> <p>3. Implementing your Hermeneutical Plan 4-Sample Templates</p>	<p><u>Critical Considerations</u> <i>by Dr. Stephen Isaac</i></p> <p>Read: Critical Consideration Six: Text and Meaning - Interpreted Through Word Meaning, Grammatical Analysis, Syntactical Structure</p> <p>Read and Review Weekly PP Notes: Sample Grammatical Analysis (All reading prior to the start of the 6th Group Forum)</p>	<p><u>PTQI</u></p> <p>Prepare a Thought, Question, or Insight for the weekly forum session. (Must be concise and pertain to weekly reading, writing, lecture or research)</p>	<p><u>Due:</u></p> <p>Construct a Grammatical Analysis Using (3) verses from your Project Passage Minimum Required: Subordinate and Main Clauses</p>
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<p><u>Week Seven</u></p> <p><u>PTQI</u> <u>1. Hermeneutics Group Forum - 6:30pm MST</u> <u>2. Biblical Hermeneutics: Weekly Lecture Discussion and PP review</u> <u>3. Implementing your Hermeneutical Plan</u></p>	<p><u>Critical Considerations</u> <i>by Dr. Stephen Isaac</i></p> <p>Read: Critical Consideration Seven: Realities of Culture and Context Time and Passage, Geography, Culture and Linguistics</p> <p>Read and Review Weekly PP Notes: (All reading prior to the start of the 7th Group Forum)</p>	<p><u>PTQI</u></p> <p>Prepare a Thought, Question, or Insight for the weekly forum session. (Must be concise and pertain to weekly reading, writing, lecture or research)</p>	<p><u>Due:</u></p> <p>1st written submission from Project Passage</p>
<p><u>Week Eight</u></p> <p><u>PTQI</u> <u>1. Hermeneutics Group Forum - 6:30pm MST</u> <u>2. Biblical Hermeneutics: Weekly Lecture Discussion and PP review</u> <u>3. Implementing your Hermeneutical Plan</u></p>	<p><u>Biblical Hermeneutics: Critical Considerations</u> <i>by Dr. Isaac</i></p> <p>Read: Critical Consideration Eight: Nuances of Culture and Context - Time and Passage, Geography, Linguistics</p>	<p><u>PTQI</u></p> <p>Prepare a Thought, Question, or Insight for the weekly forum session. (Must be concise and pertain to weekly reading, writing, lecture or research)</p>	<p><u>Due:</u></p> <p>2nd written submission from Project Passage</p>

	Read and Review Weekly PP: (All reading prior to the start of the 8th Group Forum)		
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<p>Week Nine</p> <p>PTQI</p> <p>1. Hermeneutics Group Forum - 6:30pm MST</p> <p>2. Biblical Hermeneutics: Weekly Lecture Discussion and PP review</p> <p>3. Implementing your Hermeneutical Plan</p>	<p><u>Critical Considerations</u> <i>by Dr. Isaac</i></p> <p>Read: Critical Consideration Nine: Biblical and Systematic Theology - The Relevance and Significance for Both</p> <p>Read and Review Weekly PP Notes: (All reading prior to the start of the 9th Group Forum)</p>	<p><u>PTQI</u></p> <p>Prepare a Thought, Question, or Insight for the weekly forum session. (Must be concise and pertain to weekly reading, writing, lecture or research)</p>	<p><u>Due:</u></p> <p>3rd written submission from Project Passage</p>
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<p>Week Ten</p> <p>PTQI</p> <p>1. Hermeneutics Group Forum - 6:30pm MST</p> <p>2. Biblical Hermeneutics: Weekly Lecture Discussion and PP review</p> <p>3. Implementing your Hermeneutical Plan</p>	<p><u>Critical Considerations</u> <i>by Dr. Isaac</i></p> <p>Read: Critical Consideration Ten: Compare and Contrast - Revelation of the Holy Spirit and Theological Interpretation</p> <p>Read and Review Weekly PP Notes: (All reading prior to the start of the 10th Group Forum)</p>	<p><u>PTQI</u></p> <p>Prepare a Thought, Question, or Insight for the weekly forum session. (Must be concise and pertain to weekly reading, writing, lecture or research)</p>	<p><u>Due:</u></p> <p>4th written submission from Project Passage</p>
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<p>Week Eleven</p> <p>PTQI</p> <p>1. Hermeneutics Group Forum - 6:30pm MST</p> <p>2. Biblical Hermeneutics: Weekly Lecture Discussion and PP review</p> <p>3. Implementing your Hermeneutical Plan</p>	<p><u>Critical Considerations</u> <i>by Dr. Stephen Isaac</i></p> <p>Read: Critical Consideration Eleven: Sermonizing - The Word Rightly Divided and Righteously Fulfilled / Twelve: The Impact of Prayer and the Influence of the Holy Spirit on Hermeneutic Outcomes</p> <p>Read and Review Weekly PP Notes: (All reading prior to the start of the 11th Group Forum)</p>	<p><u>PTQI</u></p> <p>Prepare a Thought, Question, or Insight for the weekly forum session. (Must be concise and pertain to weekly reading, writing, lecture or research)</p>	<p><u>Due:</u></p> <p>First Draft of Final Project Passage.</p>
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<p>Week Twelve</p> <p>1. Weekly Group Forum</p> <p>2. One on One Interviews Begin</p> <p>3. Written Personal Evaluation and Class Critique</p>	<p><u>Critical Considerations</u> <i>by Dr. Stephen Isaac</i></p> <p><i>Critical Consideration Thirteen: Conclusions</i></p> <p>Read and Review Weekly PP Notes: (All reading prior to the start of the 12th Group Forum)</p>	<p>[None]</p>	<p><u>Due:</u></p> <p>Final Draft (minimum) 12-15 pages Passage Project Written Presentati o n</p>
<p>Week Thirteen Final Grades</p>	<p>Final Grades</p>	<p>Final Grades</p>	<p>Final Grades</p>

XI. Additional Reference Resource and Optional Reading

Holman New Testament Commentary © 1999 Broadman and Holman Publishers [ISBN 978-0-8054-02117-7]

The Bible Knowledge Commentary *An Exposition of Scriptures by Dallas Theological Seminary Faculty* © Victor Books Publishing [ISBN: 0-88207-812-7]

The IVP Bible Background Commentary Old Testament © 2000 Inter Varsity Press [ISBN 0-8308-1419-1]

A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament (Second Edition) © 1994 German Bible Society/Stuttgart

Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon, *with an appendix containing the Biblical Aramaic*(First Edition) © 1906 Clarendon Press-Oxford (References to Strongs Concordance)

Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Third Edition) ©
The University of Chicago Press [ISBN 0-226-03933-1]

The Lexham Analytical Lexicon of the Hebrew Bible © 2017 Lexham Press

The Hermeneutical Spiral: *A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* -
Grant Osborne / InterVarsity Press www.ivpress.com
Second Edition © 2006 by Grant Osborne. First Edition © 1991 by Grant Osborne.

Introduction to Biblical Interpretation (Third Edition) © 1993, 2004, 2017 Zondervan
[ISBN 978-0-3105-2418-2]

Misreading Scripture Through Western Eyes © 2012 Inter Varsity Press [ISBN
978-0-8308-6347-1]

Complete Jewish Bible *An English Version of the Tanakh (Old Testament) and B'rit
Hadashah (New Testament)* © Jewish New Testament Publications David H. Stern
[ISBN 965-359-018-9]

Jewish Literacy *The Most Important Things to Know About the Jewish Religion, Its
People, and Its History* (Revised Edition) © 1991, 2001, 2008 Harper Collins
Publishers [ISBN 978-0-06-137498-2]

Honor, Patronage, Kinship & Purity *Unlocking New Testament Culture* © 2000 Inter
Varsity Press [ISBN 978-0-8308-1572-2]

Discourse Grammar of the Greek New Testament *A Practical Introduction for
Teaching & Exegesis* © 2010 Lexham Press

