

Title: “*The Hermeneutics of Apologetics*”

The biblical definition of Apologetics: I Peter 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”

- William Klein stated, “Hermeneutics describes the task of explaining the meaning of the Scriptures”
- “In essence, then, hermeneutics involves interpreting and explaining. In fields like biblical studies or literature, it refers to the task of explaining the meaning of a piece of writing.”
- “Hermeneutics describes the principles people use to understand what something means, to comprehend what a message—writing, oral, or visual—is endeavoring to communicate.”¹

¹ William W. Klein, Introduction to Biblical Interpretation (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2004), 4.

Introduction: Apologetics is completely dependent upon Bible doctrine, and Bible doctrine is completely dependent upon hermeneutics. Now that we briefly looked at seven major Bible doctrines lets discuss the meaning of hermeneutics. Hermeneutics is the science of interpreting the Bible, which is to say, understanding what God meant to communicate to mankind through the normal, grammatical, literal, contextual, and historical interpretation of Scripture.

I. The Biblical mandate for hermeneutics: II Peter 1:20 “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.”

The Book of Galatians was written by the Apostle Paul, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to counter the biblical heresy known as the Judaizes.

Galatians 1:6-9 “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto

you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

II. The antecedent of Hermeneutics: Hermeneutics is the act of interpretation. Truth is the object of the interpretations.

A. Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

B. Proverbs 22:17-21 “Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge. For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips. That thy trust may be in the LORD, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee. Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that

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thou mightest answer the words of truth to them
that send unto thee?

C. **John 1:17** “For the law was given by Moses, but
grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

D. **John 17:17** “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy
word is truth.”

E. **Ephesians 1:13** “In whom ye also trusted, after
that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your
salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye
were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,”

F. **Colossians 1:5** “For the hope which is laid up for
you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the
word of the truth of the gospel;”

1. Jerome Facher stated, “A courtroom isn’t a
place to look for the truth.”

2. Mark Twain stated, “A lie can travel halfway around the world before the truth can get its boots on...”

3. The latin for truth is: veritas.

III. The Art and Science of Hermeneutics:

A. Craig Blomberg argued, “Interpretation is neither an art nor a science; it is both a science and an art.”²

B. Blomberg stated, “Every form of communications uses ‘codes’ of some sort—cues in sounds, spelling, tone of voice to convey meaning.”³

C. The science of hermeneutics would have to do with the reading and research of the text of Scripture, while the art of hermeneutics is the communication of the Scriptures.

² Ibid., 5.

³ Ibid., 5.

IV. Principles of interpretation in Hermeneutics:

A. II Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

B. II Corinthians 2:17 “For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.”

C. Isaiah 40:13 “Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him?”

D. Romans 11:34 “For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?”

1. A. Berkeley Mickelsen discussed principles of hermeneutics this way,

2. “Principles of hermeneutics are precepts which express or describe the various ways followed by interpreters to get at meaning.”⁴

⁴ A. Berkeley Mickelsen, *Interpreting The Bible* (Grand Rapids: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1963), 5-6.

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3. Mickelsen further explained, “These principles of hermeneutics are valid or invalid depending on whether or not they really unfold the meaning of the statement had for the author and the first readers. They are valid or invalid depending on whether or not readers get the idea that the original author intended to convey.”⁵
4. He continued, “One valid principle for determining the means of a word is to study the context of the word plus the usage or meanings which the word is known to have in other contexts.”⁶

⁵ Ibid., Mickelsen, 6.

⁶ Ibid., 6.

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5. How to determine context? Ask these questions of a verse or text: Who was the human author of the Scriptural book?
6. To whom was the intended audience of the subject passage? What was the dating of the book? What was the sub-culture; religion; ethnic group; country; and sect of the audience of the biblical passage?
7. What does the Scripture say? What does the Scripture mean? How does this passage apply? What does the passage affirm or refute? Is the passage metaphoric; prophetic; a parable; historical; and/or an actual account?

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Applications:

1. Go to Knight's Notes on Excellent Way.tv and download the notes. Read the notes and let me know any of your questions.
2. Discuss and share notes with family and friends.
3. Memorize the defining verse on apologetics:
I Peter 3:15.
4. Seek out discussions with those that have questions about salvation or other areas of doubt.

Where we began:

- Supremacy of Scripture
- Bible Doctrines #'s 1-7
- Defining Hermeneutics
- Principles of Hermeneutics

Next time:

- The Apologetics of Isaiah
- The Background of the Book of Isaiah
- Explanation of Expository teaching
- Explanation what presuppositional Apologetics