

# Christian Essentials

Lessons on Basic Bible Doctrines



# For Your Consideration

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism, to steal from many is research.

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# The "Legal Stuff"

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# Why concern ourselves with Bible Doctrine?

Be diligent to present yourself  
approved to God as a workman who  
does not need to be ashamed,  
accurately handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2.15



# Why concern ourselves with Bible Doctrine?

...but sanctify Christ as Lord in  
your hearts, always being ready to  
make a defense to everyone who  
asks you to give an account for the  
hope that is in you, yet with  
gentleness and fear... **1 Peter 3.15**



# Theological Glossary

As with any discipline, there are words and phrases that are generally only encountered in a theological setting. Occasionally these will be defined, otherwise they will appear in ( ) or [ ].



A large African elephant is shown in profile, facing right, in a savanna setting. The elephant has dark, wrinkled skin and a prominent tusk. The background consists of green trees and yellowish-brown grass. The text "How do you eat an elephant?" is written in a yellow, pixelated font across the elephant's side.

How do you eat  
an elephant?



# Christian Essentials

## Introduction Section

- Identify Section Topics
- Purpose & philosophy of the study
- Define essentials & non-essentials
- Introduce Biblical Interpretation



# Course Outline

## The Bible (Bibliology)

- Inspiration and Preservation
- Purpose and Revelation



# Course Outline

## God (Theology Proper)

- The Attributes of God
- The Trinity
- The Father
- The Son (Christology)
- The Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)



# Course Outline

## Angels & Demons

(Angeology, Demonology)

- Gabriel, Michael and Lucifer
- Princes, Powers & Authorities  
and their activities



# Course Outline

## Sin & Salvation

- Sin (Hamartiology)
  - The Fall & the Curse
  - The Sin Nature
  - Justification
- Salvation (Soteriology)
  - Sanctification
  - Security



# Course Outline

## The Church (Ecclesiology)

- Purpose
- Worship
- Thanksgiving
- Membership
- Prayer
- Relationship to Messiah



# Course Outline

## The End Times & Eternity (Eschatology)

- The Church, Israel, and the Nations
- The Judgments
- The New Heaven and the New Earth



# A Word About Stupid Questions

The only "stupid" question is the one you go away without asking!!!

If you have a question, there is a very good possibility someone else has the exact same question and they are hesitant to ask it as well.

**SO SPEAK UP!!**







# The Philosophy for Our Discussion

"In essentials, unity,  
In non-essentials, liberty,  
In all things, charity."

Rupertus Meldinius



Essentials

vs

Non-essentials



# Deal Breakers vs. Denominational Distinctives

Exercise #1  
Identify some of each.



# Basic Biblical Interpretation [Hermeneutics]

"When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, or studies in the light of related passages and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise."

Dr. David L. Cooper



# Principles of Biblical Interpretation [Hermeneutics]

Hermeneutics is the philosophy of Biblical Interpretation.

Exegetics is the practice of Biblical Interpretation.





# Theological Glossary

Exegesis and eisegesis are two conflicting approaches in Biblical interpretation.



# Theological Glossary

**Eisegesis** - is the interpretation of a passage based on a subjective, non-analytical reading. The word eisegesis literally means "to lead into," which means the interpreter injects his own ideas into the text, making it mean whatever he wants.



# Theological Glossary

**Exegesis** – is the exposition or explanation of a text based on a careful, objective analysis. The word exegesis literally means "to lead out of." That means that the interpreter is led to his conclusions by following the text.



## Exercise #2a

**Genesis 1.26** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, so that they will have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Can the doctrine of the Trinity be proven from this verse?



# Exercise #2b

Isaiah 6.8 LSB Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I, Send me!"

Can the doctrine of the Trinity be proven from this verse?



## Exercise #2c

Psalm 51, 10-11 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me."

Can the doctrine of the Trinity be proven from this passage?



# Exercise #2d

Matthew 28.19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit..."

Can the doctrine of the Trinity be proven from this verse?



# Progressive Revelation

The term

"Progressive Revelation" describes the concept that the sections of the Bible that were written later may contain a fuller understanding when compared to earlier sections.



# Principles of Biblical Interpretation [Hermeneutics]

1. Be absolutely certain of your relationship with God through His Son Jesus before beginning Biblical Interpretation.  
(cf. 1 Corinthians 1:18)





# Principles of Biblical Interpretation

2. Be determined to find out what the Holy Spirit intended to teach and not simply to support your preconceived ideas or what you wish Him to teach.



# Principles of Biblical Interpretation

3. Use the most accurate text available.



# Principles of Biblical Interpretation

4. Determine the most exact meaning of the text, in context.



# Principles of Biblical Interpretation

5. Note the exact force of each word used.



# Principles of Biblical Interpretation

6. Interpret the words used in any verse according to their usual and customary Bible usage, unless there is an obvious reason to interpret otherwise.



# Principles of Biblical Interpretation

7. Interpret the words of each author of Scripture with regard to the particular verbal usage and literary style of that author.



# Principles of Biblical Interpretation

8. Interpret individual verses  
in view of their context.

(Historical narrative, poetry, music, gospel,  
epistle, or prophecy)



# Principles of Biblical Interpretation

9. Interpret individual passages in the light of parallel or related passages.  
(Verse, Paragraph, Chapter, Book)



# Principles of Biblical Interpretation

10. Interpret obscure passages in the light of passages that are perfectly plain.



# Principles of Biblical Interpretation

11. Interpret any passage in the Bible as those who, in the original culture, were addressed would have understood it.

[Cultural Hermeneutics]



# Principles of Biblical Interpretation

12. Interpret what belongs to the Christian as belonging to the Christian; what belongs to the Jew, as belonging to the Jew; and what belongs to the Gentile as belonging to the Gentile.



# Principles of Biblical Interpretation

13. Interpret each writer through the lens of the opinions the writer supported or opposed.



# Principles of Biblical Interpretation

14. Recognize that literary style has an effect on Biblical Interpretation.



# Principles of Biblical Interpretation

15. The Holy Spirit is always the best interpreter of the Bible.



# Remember

Whereas there may be several applications of any given passage of Scripture, there is always only one true interpretation.



# Exercise #3

Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

(Cf. Matthew 18:15-20)



# Congratulations



You survived the  
Introduction



In the Next Section...

What do we mean when we say  
the Bible is inspired?

Examining

**THE BIBLE**