

# STUDY GUIDE

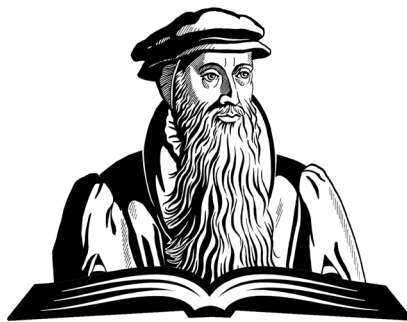
for

# HERMENEUTICS

*Principles of  
Scriptural Interpretation*

by Robert D. McCurley, ThM

*Lecture 1*  
**INTRODUCTION**



**The John Knox Institute**  
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*Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide*

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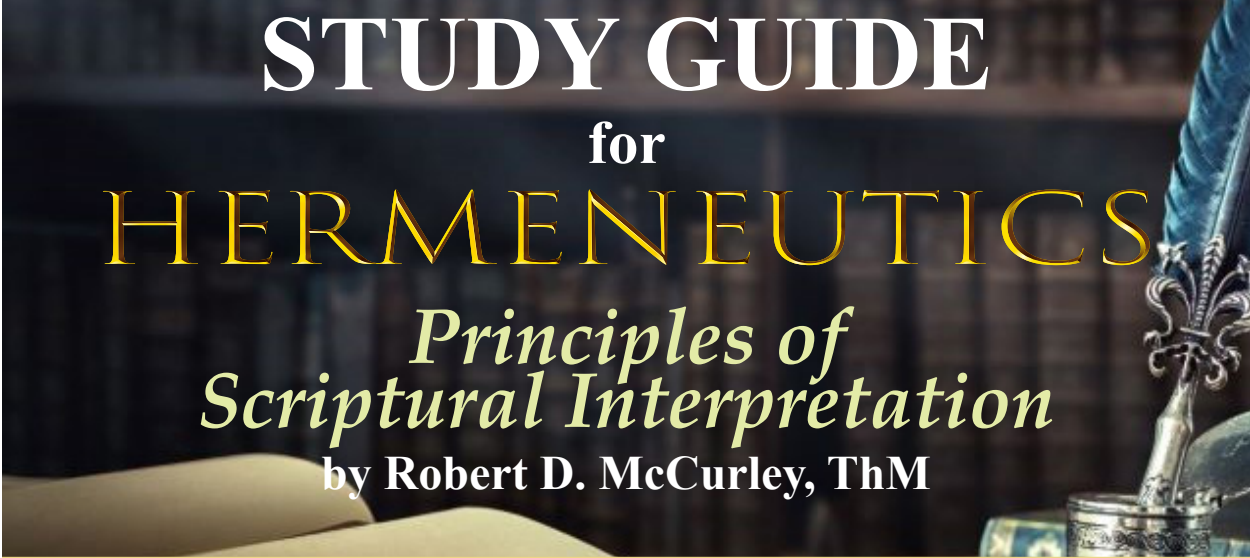
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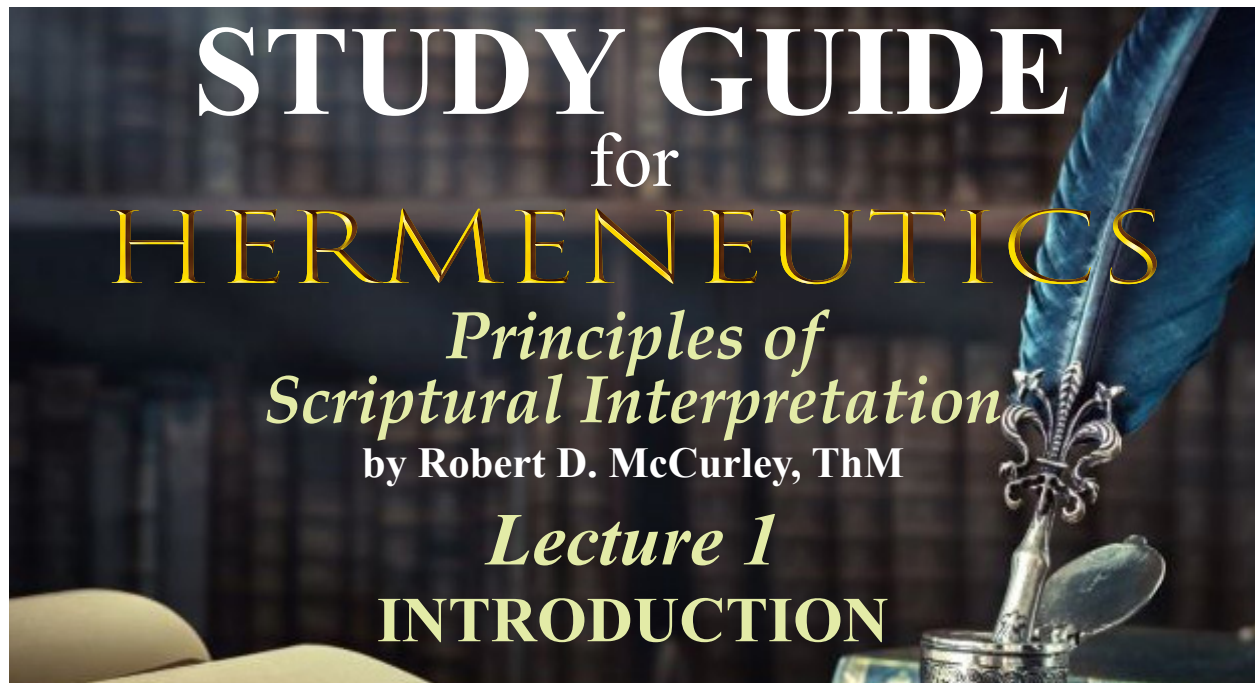


# STUDY GUIDE for HERMENEUTICS

## *Principles of Scriptural Interpretation*

by Robert D. McCurley, ThM

1. Introduction
2. Foundation
3. Sense
4. Comparing
5. Context
6. Words
7. History
8. Genre
9. Christ
10. Exposition



**Scripture Text**

1. The purpose of this lecture series is threefold.
  - a. It will equip you with biblical principles for interpreting the Scriptures.
  - b. It will practically illustrate how to use these principles in your studies.
  - c. It is a basic introduction to the principles of interpreting Scripture.
2. This first lecture will introduce the importance of this subject and what the teaching includes.
3. The task of biblical interpretation—defining terms.
  - a. Hermeneutics—the study or the rules for interpreting Scripture.
  - b. Exegesis—using the principles of interpretation to draw out the meaning of a text.
    - 1) Eisegesis—reading our own ideas into the meaning of a text.
4. The necessity of biblical interpretation.
  - a. Accurately interpreting Scripture is part of the maturity required of every Christian.
  - b. False teachings must be recognized, refuted, and avoided.
  - c. Even good teachings should be compared to the Word of God.
  - d. We need to accurately interpret Scriptures to be of service to others.
  - e. Accurately interpreting Scripture resolves apparent contradictions in Scripture texts.
5. The necessary qualifications and characteristics of one who is interpreting Scripture.
  - a. First, a person must be a genuine believer to accurately interpret the Scriptures.
  - b. Every Christian has the ability, the duty, and the privilege to study the Bible themselves.

- c. The believer's heart must be prepared for the study of the Word.
- d. It is necessary to receive the Word with faith if we wish to interpret and understand it.
- e. The person who interprets the Word of God must do so in humility and obedience.
- f. All Scripture interpretation and study must be accompanied by much prayer, and dependence upon the Lord.

6. In future lectures, we will explore, one by one, the principles God has supplied for accurately interpreting Scriptures. But first, we must understand the nature of the Bible.

**Review Questions**

1. What is the threefold purpose of this lecture series?

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2. Interpreting Scripture can be done by Exegesis or Eisegesis. What is the difference between these two methods, and which one is the right way?

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3. Does God require all Christians to accurately interpret the Word of God? What Bible texts evidence this?

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4. How can accurately dividing the Word of God enable us to refute false teachings? How does it protect us from falling into error?

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5. What are some practical ways that a Christian can be of service to others by accurately interpreting the Scripture? How is it beneficial within families?

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6. Rev. McCurley says that even sound teaching should be compared to the Word of God. Can you think of a Bible passage that encourages believers to do this?

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7. What is the one thing that is absolutely necessary before a person can discern and interpret the Word of God? Why is this so important?

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8. We heard that it is privilege and duty for a Christian to study the Bible for themselves. But what preparation is needed? And how should the Word of God be received?

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9. Why are humility and obedience so important for accurately interpreting the Scripture? Are we required to humbly obey God's Word if it convicts us of sin?

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10. If a believer neglects prayer and does not have a sense of dependence on God, how will that affect his or her ability to accurately divide the word of truth? Could that cause them to be led astray from the truth?

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**Personal Applications**

1. Have you ever had to take a stand against a false teaching about God or about the gospel of Jesus Christ? Were you able to use Scripture to refute the false doctrine, and to prove the right doctrine with an accurate exegesis of the text?

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2. We've seen in this lecture that the believer's heart must be right before coming to study the Word of God. In your own words, what steps might you take to come with a right heart, ready to receive and believe what the Scripture says? Do you see how prayer is a beneficial part of preparing your heart?

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