

STUDY GUIDE

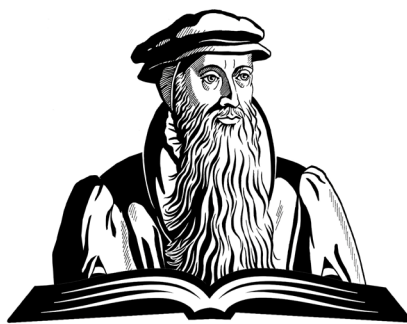
for

HERMENEUTICS

*Principles of
Scriptural Interpretation*

by Robert D. McCurley, ThM

Lecture 2
FOUNDATION



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

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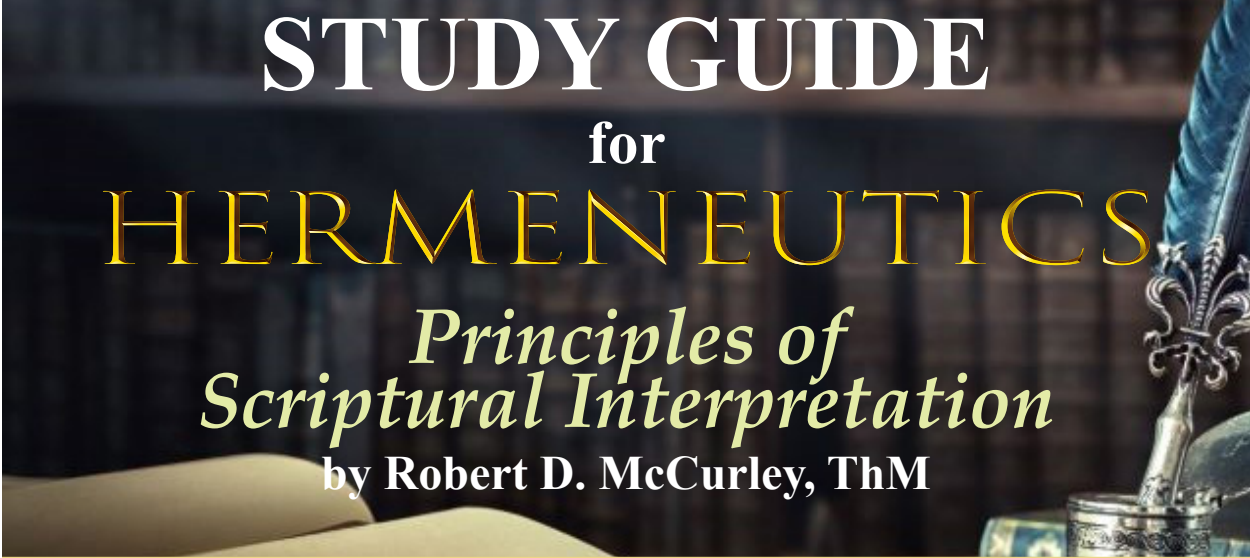
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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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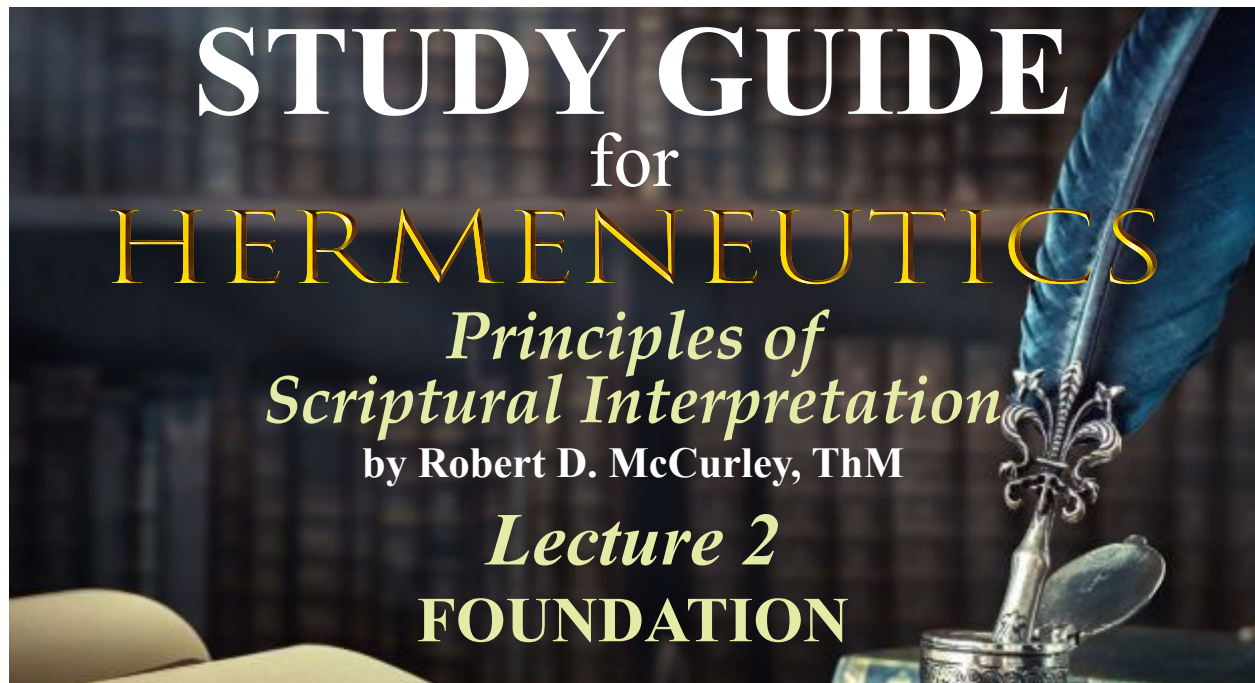


STUDY GUIDE for HERMENEUTICS

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

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

Key Points

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”—2 Timothy 3, verses 16 and 17

Key Points

1. Realizing that the Holy Scriptures are the very Word of God is foundational to this study.
2. In the Bible, God reveals his truths.
 - a. It provides special revelation about all we need to know and do for godliness.
 - b. It is the only place for man to come to know God as Savior and Redeemer.
3. The nature of the Bible.
 - a. It is the very Word of God—men wrote the words by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. It is inerrant—there are no errors in the Word of God.
 - c. It is infallible—it never changes; it cannot fail.
4. The Bible comes with divine authority.
 - a. Therefore it should be received as coming from God.
 - b. It always has the final word on every subject, above the opinions and traditions of men.

5. The Bible is very clear in all things necessary to know for salvation.
 - a. Where the Scripture is unclear, the fault is with us because of our sin.
 - 1) That is why it requires careful interpretation using the principles in this course.
 - 2) God has ordained pastors and teachers to assist us in understanding his Word, but we must still test their teachings against the Word of God itself.
6. The sufficiency of Scripture—the Bible alone is our standard for salvation, faith, and life.
7. The Scriptures are Christ-centered—the primary focus of the Bible is on the purpose and work of Jesus Christ.
 - a. The whole Bible points to Jesus Christ.
8. Implications that come from these truths about the Bible.
 - a. Inspiration, inerrancy, and divine authority of Scripture eliminates and resolves apparent contradictions in the Bible.
 - b. Difficult passages of Scripture can be understood by more clear passages in the Bible.
 - c. Nothing outside the Bible can undermine what is in the Bible.
 - d. We should expect to find the revelation of Jesus Christ everywhere throughout the Bible.

Review Questions

1. In this lecture, we learn that the Bible is the very Word of God. What two foundational truths does God reveal in his Word?

2. What two important general truths does God reveal in the Bible?

3. What are the three important characteristics about the nature of the Bible?

4. If the Bible is the Word of God, explain how it is that it was written down by men?

5. Please define the words “inerrant” and “infallible” especially in relation to the Bible.

6. If the Bible comes with divine authority, how should we receive it? Can the opinions or traditions of men overrule the authority of the Bible?

7. Rev. McCurley says that there are parts of Scripture which can seem unclear to us. What is the reason for our lack of understanding? How can we overcome this weakness?

8. Please define the meaning of “sufficiency of Scripture.”

9. The four Gospels in the New Testament are all about the Lord Jesus Christ, but where can we find him in the Old Testament? What did Jesus say about that?

10. What four things are implied from the truths we've learned in this lecture about the Bible?

Personal Applications

1. Some people argue against the reliability of the Bible by using their own ideas, or by referring to science or archeology, or even to historical studies. Are you encouraged about the reliability of the Holy Scriptures because of what is taught in this lecture? Has this lecture helped you develop wise and thoughtful responses to their arguments?

2. Rev. McCurley stated that the whole of Scripture points to the Lord Jesus Christ. Based on Jesus' words, as recorded in John 5:39, can you cite some Old Testament passages that point to Christ or that testify about him?
