

# STUDY GUIDE

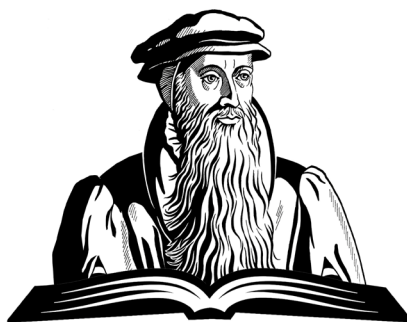
for

# HERMENEUTICS

*Principles of  
Scriptural Interpretation*

by Robert D. McCurley, ThM

## *Lecture 9* CHRIST



The John Knox Institute  
of Higher Education

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*Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide*

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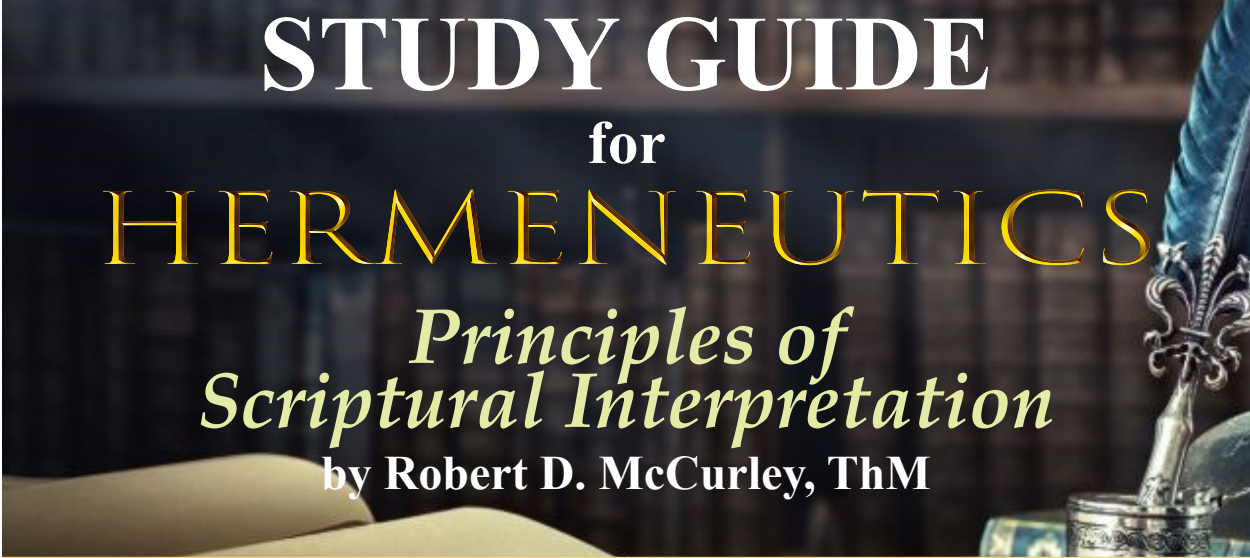
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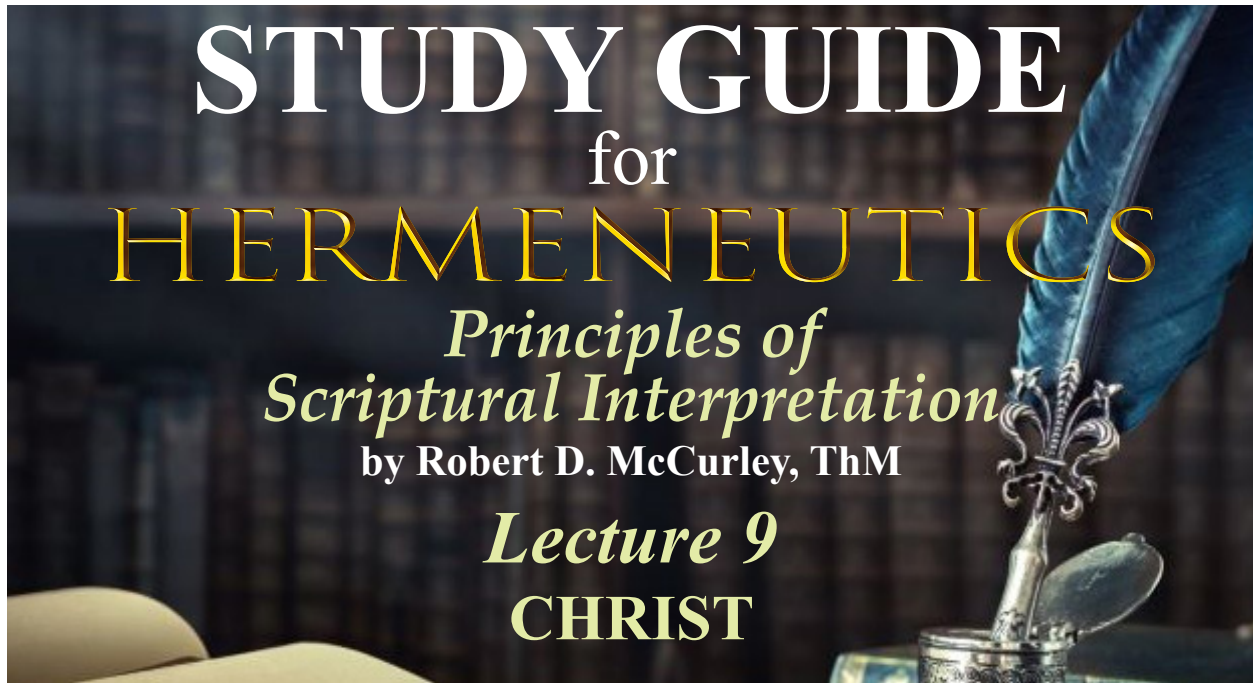


# STUDY GUIDE for HERMENEUTICS

## *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**

*“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”—John 5, verse 39*

**Key Points**

1. When reading any book, we can become too focused on individual details and miss the main theme of the book. The primary purpose of the Bible is to set forth the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The seventh principle: *Always interpret Scripture with Christ at the center.*
2. Christ is at the center of Scripture.
  - a. Jesus himself says that the Old Testament Scriptures are all about him.
  - b. It is impossible to accurately interpret the Scriptures without interpreting them in light of Christ’s person and work. The study of the Bible is a study of the glory of God in Christ.
  - c. This is personal—it corresponds to how every believer wants to know and understand their Redeemer.
3. Some related principles:
  - a. The Bible is a unified book—one, single, coherent whole, centered on the person and work of Christ.
  - b. The Old Testament prophets looked forward in anticipation of the coming Messiah.
    - 1) The New Testament interprets the Old Testament.

c. This principle of *Christ at the Center* works together with the other principles of interpretation, not in opposition to them.

4. Concrete examples of what this principle of *Christ at the Center* looks like when we apply it.

a. God employs various metaphors, symbols, types and ordinances in the Old Testament to reveal the glory of his Son.

b. God draws many parallels in the New Testament between Christ and Old Testament historical figures.

c. God also draws connections in the New Testament between Christ and Old Testament events.

5. In the next lecture, we will see how to employ these principles in teaching and preaching.

**Review Questions**

1. What is the primary purpose of the Bible? What is this last principle for interpreting Scripture?

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2. Can you reference some passages where the Bible teaches this principle? What did the Lord Jesus say about this?

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3. Explain how this principle is a personal matter for every believer.

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4. Rev. McCurley stated, “Christ, as the eternal Word, is both the messenger and the message.” What did he mean by this? How does this help us to rightly interpret Scriptures?

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5. What two New Testament passages prove to us that Christ is the final revelation of God? How does this show us that to be God-centered is to be Christ-centered?

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6. Rev. McCurley has told us before that the New Testament explains the Old Testament. But how does 1 Peter 1:10–11 tell us that the Old Testament points forward to Christ?

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7. Does this principle of *Christ at the Center* conflict or oppose the other principles of interpretation? How would it be misusing this principle to try to show Christ in a text where there is no other Scripture to support that?

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8. We heard in this lecture that God uses various metaphors, symbols, types, and ordinances to reveal the glory of his Son. Please list out as many examples of this as you can.

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9. Please list some of the parallels God has given us in the New Testament between Christ and Old Testament historical figures.

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10. Please list some New Testament connections where we see Christ in Old Testament events.

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**Personal Applications**

1. Rev. McCurley says that the Bible is a unified book—one, single, coherent whole, centered on the person and work of Jesus Christ. How does this knowledge affect your Bible studies? Are you taking notes as you read? We hope you will be looking for the Lord Jesus on every page, but please remember to apply the other principles you have learned throughout this module.

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2. We also heard in this lecture that this principle is not abstract, but personal to the believer who craves to know his or her Redeemer. Do you have a desire to know the Lord Jesus Christ? How does this affect your Bible reading? If you are not a believer, we encourage you to pray to God and ask for faith and to look for Jesus as you read the Bible.

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