

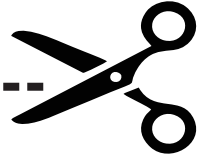
The History of the Bible INTERPRETATION

Hermeneutics:

the area of study which deals with proper interpretation of the Biblical text. Hermeneutics is the art and science of Bible interpretation.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15



Two Basic Ideas About Scripture

It's meaning is fluid and changing

The message is for a different time.
The meaning changes with culture/society.
It can be a useful guide for some ideas.
The Bible is not the ultimate authority.

It's meaning is set and certain

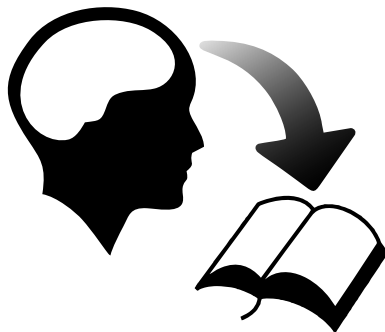
The Bible's message is timeless.
Society and culture must adapt to God's Word.
All scripture is profitable for teaching and correction.
The Bible is the ultimate authority.

Two Basic Approaches To Scripture

Eisegesis

The reader brings the meaning into the text.

The Greek prefix 'eis' means 'into.'



Imagination:

What idea do I want to present?

Exploration:

What Scripture passage seems to fit with my idea?

Application:

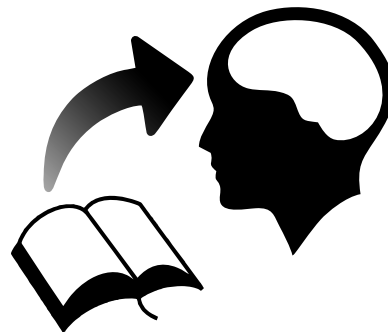
What does my idea mean that I (or others) should do?

Eisegesis can be accidental or intentional.

Exegesis

The reader derives the meaning out of the text.

The Greek prefix 'ex' means 'out of.'



Observation:

What does the passage say?

Interpretation:

What is the Spirit-intended meaning of the text?

Application:

How should this passage affect the beliefs and behaviors of my life?

Exegesis is always done intentionally.