

THURSDAY:

Hermeneutics — What does it mean?



Today's Objective:

Understand the significance of the original message for today, and state the main idea.

Today's Goal:

Have a written interpretation and application for each main point of the exegetical outline (with possible illustrations), along with a memorable and “definitive” big idea for the passage.

Task 0. Continue your panoramic reading of the book.

Keep the entire message in front of you by continuing to soak in the message of the book as a whole.

Task 1. Clarify the points to be interpreted and applied.

To do: What statements does the passage itself make that we, in honoring the authority of the text, should highlight (in a contextualized way) for our audience?

Task 2. Apply the 3 development questions to each point.

In this task we must apply the 3 development questions to each of the points we identified in the previous task.

To do: For each point, ask the following questions: Does this point require clarification? If so, explain it. Does this point require a defense? If so, prove it. Does this point need to be put into practice? If so, apply it.

Task 3. Employ an application-processing framework.

Understanding how each point applies to our contemporary audience is possibly the most important task in interpreting what God wants to say to our listeners.

To do: Evaluate each point from these three perspectives: (1) theological, (2) experiential, and (3) cultural.

Task 4. Summarize the applied interpretation for each point.

Summarize how each point of the passage applies to your listeners.

To do: For each point, ask: In light of the reflection I have done, what exactly does God want to say to my listeners?

Task 5. Compose the big idea with subject and complement.

Write a “communicative” version of the main idea of the passage—a memorable expression that, in the light of your analysis of the meaning of the passage, faithfully captures the essence of the exegetical idea.