

BASIC DEFINITIONS

- 1) Hermeneutics: The science and art of Biblical interpretation.
- 2) General Hermeneutics: The study of those rules which govern interpretation of the entire Biblical text.
- 3) Special Hermeneutics: The study of those rules that apply to specific genres; such as parables, allegories, types, and prophecy.
- 4) Exegesis: The application of the principles of hermeneutics to arrive at a correct understanding of the text.
- 5) Eisegesis: The practice of reading one's meaning into a text, rather than deriving his understanding from it (exegesis).
- 6) Canonicity: The field of Biblical study concerned with distinguishing between those books which are divinely inspired and those which are not.
- 7) Textual Criticism (lower criticism): The field of Biblical study which attempts to ascertain the original wording of a text.
- 8) Historical Criticism (higher criticism): The field of Biblical study concerned with study of the authorship of a book, the date of its composition, the authenticity of its contents, and its literary unity.
- 9) Biblical Theology: The study of divine revelation as it was given throughout the Old and New Testaments, attempting to show the development of theological knowledge throughout the Old and New Testament era.
- 10) Systematic Theology: The field of Biblical study which organizes the Biblical data in a logical rather than historical Biblical theology manner; it attempts to place together all the information on a given topic so that we may understand the totality of God's revelation on that topic.
- 11) Inspiration: The process in which God worked through the personalities of the Biblical writers in such a way that, without suspending their personal styles of expression or freedom, what they produced was literally "God-breathed", or the infallible and inerrant Word of God.
- 12) Verbal Inspiration: The doctrine that not only the concepts, but also the very words used in Scripture were inspired as above, and exactly what the Holy Spirit intended to be put down.

FIELDS OF BIBLICAL STUDY/RELATION TO HERMENEUTICS

