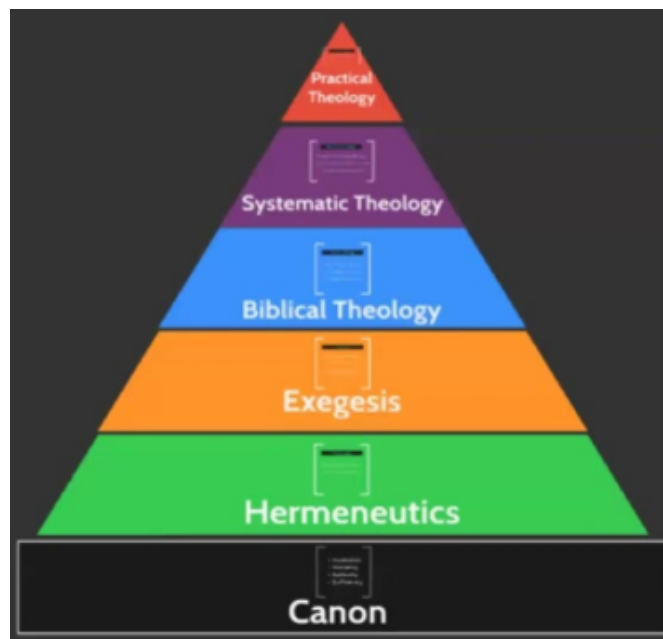


# Equip, Don't Just Instruct: Practical Steps for Biblical Study

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*“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” 2 Tim 2:15 (ESV)*



## 1. Historical Context

- i. The historical setting of a given text is a \_\_\_\_\_ part of biblical interpretation.
- ii. Understanding of the \_\_\_\_\_ within the text allows for us to interpret what the characters within the narrative were going through.
- iii. Understanding the historical context of these two example passages is important for proper biblical interpretation: \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. Grammatical Interpretation

Several concepts for grammatical interpretation include \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, phrasing (arranging paragraphs grammatically) and word studies.

### I. *Repetition*

- i. Repetition is often meant to emphasize the \_\_\_\_\_ of a person, a theme, an event, or an idea.
- ii. In Psalm 121 there are only eight verses. The word “keep” is repeated \_\_\_\_\_ times in this short Psalm.
- iii. The repetitive use of “verily verily (or truly truly)” in the scriptures is a grammatical style is meant to signify the \_\_\_\_\_ of a statement and to signify the \_\_\_\_\_ of the words spoken. When a speaker in the Bible times said “truly, truly” it’s as if they were saying “listen up... with both your ears!”

### II. *Purpose Statements*

- i. A purpose statement is when the author of a certain passage directly (or indirectly) makes a statement for their \_\_\_\_\_ intention of writing that text.
- ii. One indirect example of a “purpose statement” is when Matthew talks about the “kingdom of heaven” \_\_\_\_\_ times.

- iii. An example of a direct “purpose statement” is found in *The Gospel According to John* when he wrote “*but these have been written* \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:31) (NASB)
- iv. John writes in his first epistle “My little children, I am writing these things to you \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ you may not sin.” (1 John 2:1)

### 3. Antecedent Theology

Antecedent theology means “a thing or event that existed \_\_\_\_\_ .”

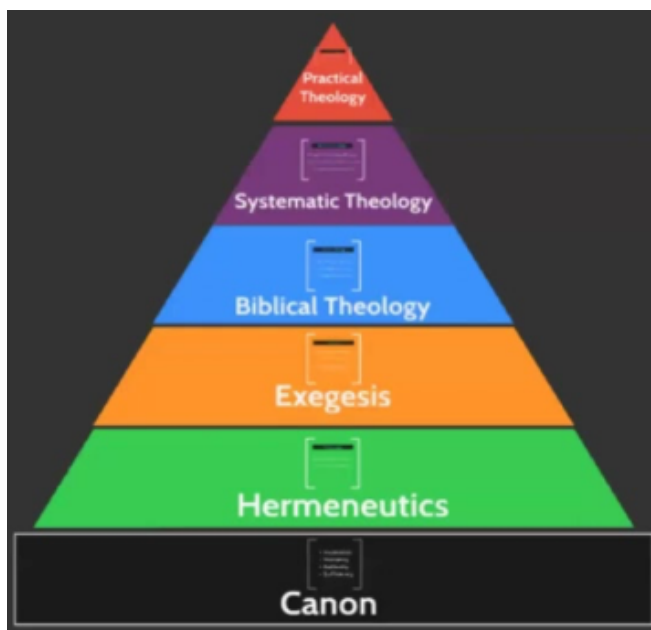
*When we are talking about “antecedent theology” we are talking about something that the author is either stating within the text that is clearly pointing the hearers (or recipients) back to something they need to remember from history, or something the author is assuming that they should already understand from history.*

- i. Sampson’s hair was just a \_\_\_\_\_ , but his true strength was always granted from \_\_\_\_\_. Antecedent Theology helps us to have a greater understanding of this and points us \_\_\_\_\_ from Samson and \_\_\_\_\_ God for help.
- ii. Paul used antecedent theology to warn the church in Corinth to be careful of \_\_\_\_\_ and to keep their \_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord, entrusting themselves to him in the midst of any circumstance.

- iii. When Jesus tells the people listening to him to “repent” in Mark 1:14-15 he \_\_\_\_\_ that they already understand what “repentance” means.

#### 4. Theological Application

The “theological pyramid” which is built on the sufficiency of God’s word (inerrant, infallible, inspired, and sufficient) consists of hermeneutics (principles for biblical interpretation), exegesis (practice of rules for biblical interpretation), biblical theology (focusses on a specific subject), and systematic theology (foundational biblical teachings are then organized into a logical order). The final step in the theological pyramid is \_\_\_\_\_.



- i. Gordan Fee once stated, “A text \_\_\_\_\_ mean what it could never have meant for its \_\_\_\_\_ readers/hearers.”

## 5. Conclusion

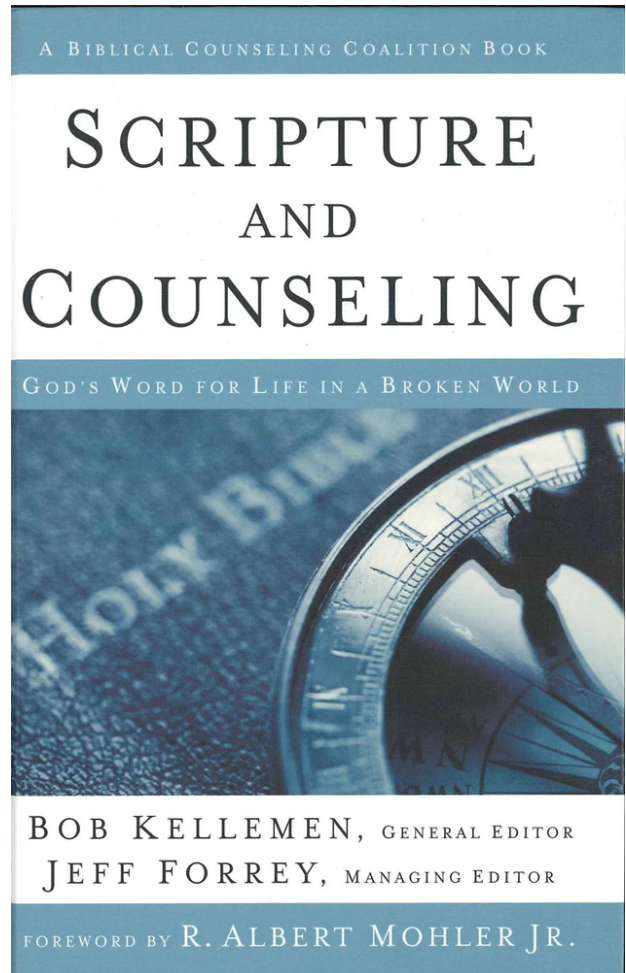
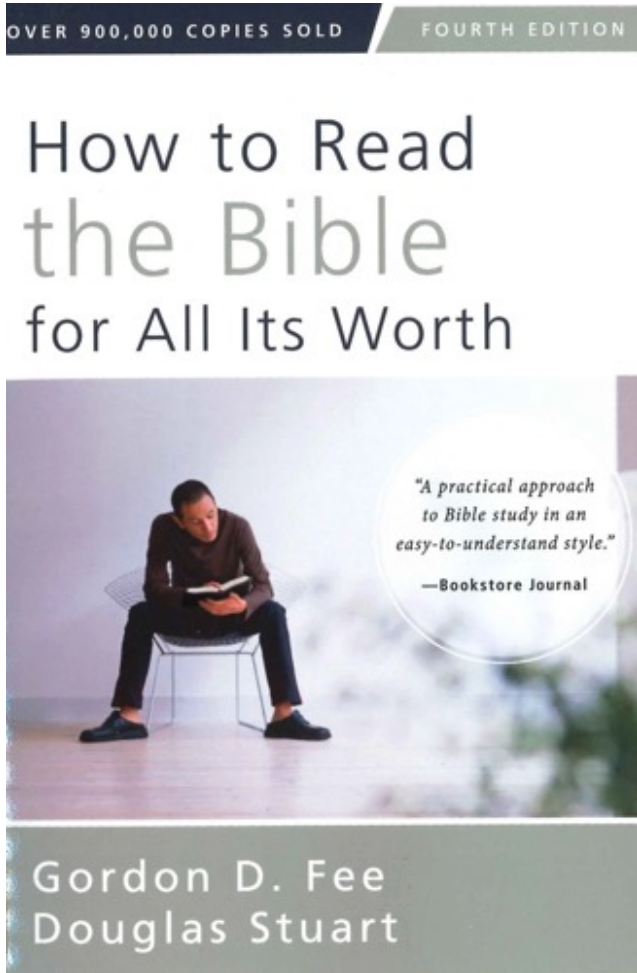
As faithful followers of Christ, we must properly interpret the scriptures so that we, as believers and biblical counselors, appropriately and accurately apply and minister the Word of God to those the Lord brings along our path.



"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

**Resources:**



DISCOVERING WONDERFUL THINGS:

Prayer and Meditation	Observation	Interpretation	Application
Prayer for the Spirit's help to understand the scriptures. Pray for God to make himself known.	What does this passage say? Write out the text. Read the text out loud, slowly, and in different translations.	What does this passage mean? (Define words, use cross references.) Is there a doctrine ( <b>teaching</b> ) to know, a <b>reproof</b> (sin) to avoid or forsake, a <b>correction</b> (command) to obey, an instruction for <b>training in righteousness</b> ? 2 Tim 3:16-17	How should this passage change me? What specific things can I do to apply this truth to my life? Write down what, with whom, and when you plan to start.