



Course Description

This class will teach you how to mine Scripture for gold instead of rake for leaves. We will learn a method for interpreting the Bible and applying it to life. The issues we will explore include historical background, literary context, and the role our own cultural assumptions play in the process. Much of our time will be spent investigating the various genres in the Bible, and learning special tools for interpreting each one. In every session we will apply what we have learned by interpreting and discussing a passage of Scripture together.

Rationale

Scripture teaches us that the Word of God transforms people (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 4:12). I have learned from experience that the people who grow the most in their faith are those who study the Bible every day. Therefore, one of the greatest gifts I can give you as your pastor is the ability to accurately interpret Scripture and apply it to your life. My prayer is that interpreting the words of the living God would give you a window into the heart of God Himself, so that you can become more like Him.

Goals of the Course

1. Learn a method for accurately interpreting the Bible and applying it to life.
2. Instill a love for the Word of God that compels you to diligently study it every day.
3. Build a foundation for studying Scripture that helps you grow in your relationship with Christ for years to come, so that you can be conformed to His image.

Class Schedule

- Class 1: Interpreting the Interpreter: What We Bring to the Table
- Class 2: Getting the Big Picture: Understanding the Story of Redemption
- Class 3: SOAR: A Method for Interpreting Scripture
- Class 4: Putting the Truth into Practice: A Guide for Applying the Bible
- Class 5: Digging Up the Past: Historical Background
- Class 6: The Forest and the Trees: Understanding Literary Context
- Class 7: Going By the Letter: Interpreting Epistles
- Class 8: What's the Story? Interpreting Biblical Narratives
- Class 9: Reason Without the Rhyme: Ten Principles for Interpreting the Psalms
- Class 10: Back to the Future: Five Principles for Interpreting Old Testament Prophecy
- Class 11: Of Sons, Sowers and Samaritans: Five Steps for Interpreting Parables