

# HOW TO READ THE BIBLE FOR ALL ITS WORTH

CHAPTER 4 – THE EPISTLES:  
THE HERMENEUTICAL QUESTIONS

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS



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- Most texts are not about “what we should or should not” but rather serve as reminders

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- We often pick and choose which texts to hold to based on our own bias



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- 1 Timothy 5:23

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- 1 Corinthians 11:14 vs 1 Corinthians 11:15



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- 1 Corinthians 11:14 vs 1 Corinthians 11:15
- Titus 3:5

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS - ARMINIANISM



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- Romans 8:30

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- Romans 9:16-24
- Galatians 1:15
- Ephesians 1:4-5



# COMMON HERMENEUTICS - CALVINISM



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- 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

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- 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- 2 Peter 2:20-22

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- 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- 2 Peter 2:20-22
- Hebrews 6:4-6

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS

- Are we trying to understand Scripture or are we trying to get around Scripture?

# FIRST RULE





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  - Narrows limits by dictating what it cannot mean
  - 1 Corinthians 13:9-10
  - If the NT supersedes prophesying and tongues then they would have had to have known about the NT

# SECOND RULE



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- Whenever we share comparable particulars (similar specific life situations) with the first century hearers, God's word to us is the same as God's word to them.



# PROBLEMS



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- Problem of Extended Application
- Problem of Particulars that are not Comparable
- Problem of Cultural Relativity
- Problem of Task Theology

# EXTENDED APPLICATION



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    - Works based salvation

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  - Paul's arguments from a place of apostolic authority

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  - Issues with the abuse of communion to articulate influence (1 Corinthians 11)

# INCOMPARABLE PARTICULARS

- In these cases, we must find the principle
- The principle then must be applied to like situations
- We must avoid extending application in order to capture “minor” items of preference

# CULTURAL RELATIVITY



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- This is the area of most difficulty
- What passages do we leave in the past and which do we carry forward?



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  - Holy kiss, women's head covering, charismata

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  - Paul's sin lists never contain cultural items
  - The other items are merely wrong when abused or used to diminish others

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  - Hatred, murder, stealing, homosexuality, drunkenness, sexual immorality
  - Women in ministry, food sacrificed to idols, gaining wealth

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- Homosexuality
  - No where in Scripture are there examples of permissive use
- Women in Ministry
  - Acts 18 and 21 and 1 Corinthians 11



# TASK THEOLOGY



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- This does not mean that the theology cannot be presented systematically

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- 1 Corinthians 6:2-3

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- 1 Corinthians 10:16-21

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- 1 Corinthians 10:16-21
- “God has given us all we *need* but not necessarily all we *want*.”



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  - Abortion
  - Remarriage
  - Infant Baptism

# TASK THEOLOGY

- This does not mean that we do not bring a biblical worldview, only that we must be careful to not answer for ourselves.

# HOMEWORK

- Read Genesis Chs 37-50
- Read Chapter 5 in the book