

# *Biblical Interpretation*

**Course Facilitator: Keith E. Johnson, Ph.D.**

*Institute of Biblical Studies*

**June 15 to 28, 2017**

**9:00-11:30am**

**Ridgeview Classical School**

**1800 S Lemay Ave, Fort Collins, CO 80525**

## **Course Purpose**

The Institute of Biblical Studies exists to help develop Christ-centered missionaries who possess the biblical and theological competencies they need (head, heart and hands) to live out the Great Commandment and helpfully fulfill the Great Commission through the ministry of Cru. As an organization, we are passionate about connecting people to Christ. To fulfill our global missionary mandate, we need to be growing in our understanding and experience of the good news about Christ revealed in the Scriptures, increasing in our understanding of people (as created, fallen and redeemed), and growing in our capacity to communicate Christ to people in their brokenness from the Scriptures. It is also important that we can contextualize Scriptural teaching for ethnically and culturally diverse audiences. Biblical Interpretation exists to help you grow in your capacity to read and apply the Scriptures in a Christ-centered way.

## **Course Description**

Poetry. Letters. Stories. Laws. Prophecy. Faithfully interpreting God's Word requires understanding the various literary forms through which God speaks to us, applying sound hermeneutical principles, and connecting every passage to God's redemptive message throughout the Scriptures that centers on Jesus Christ. Building on the foundation of Bible Study Methods, this course will introduce you to an interpretive process that will enable you to understand and apply God's Word more profoundly. You will have the opportunity to learn this process working in small groups with the aid of a mentor who will guide you to handle the treasure of God's Word faithfully and meaningfully. Prerequisite: *Bible Study Methods*

## **Learning Outcomes**

Cognitive (knowledge and thinking skills)

1. Discover tools that can help you better understand and apply five literary forms through which God speaks to us in Scripture: OT narrative, gospel, parables, poetry, and Acts.
2. Better understand the grand narrative of Scripture and why it is important that we relate every passage to this larger story that culminates in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.
3. Grow in your awareness of the ways in which culture shapes our reading and application of Scripture as well as the importance of listening to believers in other cultural contexts to understand what God is saying to us in his Word.

Affective (attitudes, motivation, character)

1. Grow as a disciple of Jesus who joyfully submits to the authority of God's Word and who builds movements of disciples who "truly follow Jesus" by embracing his Word in their lives.
2. Develop greater confidence and humility in your ability to understand and apply God's Word.
3. Be motivated to apply sound interpretive principles to your future reading, study, application and teaching of Scripture.

Behavioral (personal and ministry skills)

1. Grow in your capacity to ask good questions as you read, study and apply the Scriptures.
2. Grow in your capacity to read and apply the Scriptures in a Christ-centered way by discerning how Scripture exposes your brokenness/rebellion and points your heart to find true life in Christ.

**Required Texts**

- ESV Study Bible* – Personal Size. Wheaton: Crossway, 2008. ISBN-13: 978-1-4335-3083-8 [Paperback] or 978-1-4335-2461-5 [Hardcover]. The ESV Study Bible is one of the most helpful single-volume resources for studying the Bible. It contains a wealth of notes and articles addressing everything from the meaning of individual verses to the big picture of God's story. [NOTE: When you buy the print version, you also get free online access to the ESVSB. If you don't want a print version of the ESVSB, you can simply buy one of the electronic versions.]
- Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth: A Guide to Understanding the Bible*, 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014. ISBN-13: 978-0310517825 [To rightly read Scripture, we must pay careful attention to the literary form (genre) through which a biblical writer communicates. This book provides a helpful overview of the different genres through which God reveals himself in Scripture. It complements the presentations you will hear in the lectures. While we will not discuss it extensively in class, it is foundational.]
- Roberts, Vaughan. *God's Big Picture: Tracing the story-line of the Bible*. Leicester, England: InterVarsity Press, 2002. ISBN-13: 978-0830853649 [Another key to rightly reading Scripture is seeing how a passage fits into the larger story of God. In 150 pages Roberts provides a helpful overview of the story-line of the Bible organized around the theme of the kingdom of God. We will discuss this book in class.]
- Tripp, Paul. *Whiter Than Snow: Meditations on Sin and Mercy*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2008. ISBN-13: 978-1433502309 [This book contains 52 meditations on Psalm 51. We will discuss several them in class. We recommend that you wait to read this till the night before we discuss each chapter.]

## Recommended Texts

- Bartholomew Craig G. and Michael W. Goheen. *The Drama Of Scripture: Finding Our Place In The Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.
- Doriani, Daniel M. *Getting the Message: A Plan for Interpreting and Applying the Bible*. Phillipbsurg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed Pub., 1996.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Putting the Truth to Work: The Theory and Practice of Biblical Application*. Phillipbsurg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed Pub., 2001.
- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics: Biblical-Theological Foundations and Principles*. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 2006.
- Kostenberger, Andreas and Richard Patterson. *Invitation to Biblical Interpretation: Exploring the Hermeneutical Triad of History, Literature, and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2011.
- Richards, E. Randolph. *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 2012.
- Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Revised and Expanded. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.

## Learning Tasks

1. **Reading:** There are four books you will engage in this class. (1) *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* provides a great overview of the various literary forms we find in the Bible and will supplement the lectures. (2) *God's Big Picture* traces the entire story of the Bible in 150 pages. We will discuss GBP in our coaching groups. (3) *The ESV Study Bible* is a great resource for studying the Bible. It's a resource you will continue to consult far after the class ends. (4) *Whiter than Snow* will help us think about how the gospel relates to our lives as believers. We will discuss several chapters in class. The last day of class you will submit a reading report to your coach indicating how much of the required reading you completed.
2. **Prep for the First Class:** There is reading that needs to be completed prior to the first class session. See "Course Assignments" below.
3. **Participate in a Coaching Group:** Much of the learning in this class will take place in small group context. You will be assigned to a coaching group with eight to ten of your peers. You will have a chance to practice the skills you are learning under the watchful eye of a coach.
4. **Study a Passage:** You will select a passage the first day of class and carefully study it. Five worksheets will guide you through the process. All your work will be incorporated in your final exegetical paper (see below). The worksheets are posted online and will be submitted electronically to your coach.
  - a. Worksheet #1: Passage Selection and Observation (graded)
  - b. Worksheet #2: Context Analysis (graded)
  - c. Worksheet #3: Textual Outline and ABI (graded)
  - d. Worksheet #4: Draft of Explanation of ABI (feedback only)
  - e. Worksheet #5: Theological Analysis (graded)
5. **Write an Exegetical Paper:** You will communicate all that you have learned studying your passage in an exegetical paper.

## Course Grade

Reading	15 %
Worksheets	40 %
Exegetical Paper	<u>45 %</u>
Total	100pts

### Grading Scale:

94-100	A
92-93	A-
90-91	B+
84-89	B
82-83	B-
80-81	C+
74-79	C
72-73	C-
65-71	D
0-65	F

## Course Assignments

### Pre-Class Work

Prior to the first class, you need to read the following

- Roberts, *God's Big Picture*, pp. 13-152 (Introduction and chapters 1-8)
- Fee and Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, chapters 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11
- Johnson, "Hearing the Music of the Gospel" (online) (NOTE: We will discuss this article in the first class session.)

Topic/Date	Reading Due	Worksheets and Project
<b>Introduction</b> June 15	Johnson, "Hearing the Music of the Gospel" (Note: We will discuss this article the first day of class)	Select passage for exegetical project and make observations (Worksheet #1, graded, due 6/16)
<b>An Interpretive Process</b> June 16	Tripp, preface and ch. 1 Read Appendix 1 (back of lecture notes)	<i>Turn in Worksheet #1</i> Complete Analysis (Worksheet #2, graded, due 6/19)
<b>Interpreting OT Narratives</b> June 19	Tripp, ch. 2	<i>Turn in Worksheet #2</i> Read commentaries on your passage (links posted on IBS website)
<b>Interpreting Gospels</b> June 20	Tripp, ch. 10 Read Luke 7:36-50 Read Appendix 2 (back of lecture notes)	Develop textual outline and ABI for your passage (Worksheet #3, graded, due 6/21)
<b>Interpreting Parables</b> June 21	Tripp, ch. 25	<i>Turn in Worksheet #3</i> Write rough draft of explanation portion on your passage (Worksheet #4, for feedback only, due 6/22)
<b>Theological Analysis</b> June 22	Tripp, ch. 30 Read Appendix 3 (back of lecture notes)	<i>Turn in Worksheet #4</i> Begin the Theological Analysis section of your passage (Worksheet #5, graded, due 6/26)
<b>Interpreting Acts</b> June 23	Tripp, ch. 31	Complete Theological Analysis
<b>Applying Scripture</b> June 26	Doriani, <i>Putting the Truth to Work</i> , pp. 44-48, 81-96 (online) Read Appendix 4 (back of lecture notes) Read Appendix 5 (back of lecture notes)	<i>Turn in Worksheet #5</i>
<b>Interpreting Poetry</b> June 27		Work on Final Paper
<b>NO CLASS</b> June 28	Submit your reading report to your coach electronically	Exegetical paper due at 1:00p.m.

### Reading Report

(To be submitted to your coach along with your paper)  
*An electronic copy can be found on the IBS website*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Coach \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due	Assignment	Assigned Pages	# Pages Completed
Prior to the first class	Roberts, <i>God's Big Picture</i> , pp. 13-152 (Introduction and chapters 1-8) Fee and Stuart, <i>How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth</i> , chapters 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11	250	
June 15	Johnson, "Hearing the Music of the Gospel" [14]	14	
June 16	Tripp Preface, Story, ch. 1 [12] Appendix 1, "Tracing Redemptive Themes" [2]	14	
June 19	Tripp, ch. 2 [2]	2	
June 20	Read commentaries on your passage [count as 20pp] Tripp, ch. 10 [2] Appendix 2 "Intro to Commentaries" [2]	24	
June 21	Tripp, ch. 25 [2]	2	
June 22	Tripp, ch. 30 [2] Appendix 3, "Identifying the TBI" [1]	3	
June 23	Tripp, ch. 31 [2]	2	
June 26	Doriani, <i>Putting the Truth to Work</i> , pp. 44-48, 81-96 [21] Appendix 4, "Identifying the Fallen Condition Focus" [7] Appendix 5, "Guidelines for Application" [2]	30	
June 27		0	
June 28		0	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>341</b>	

**Percentage of Reading completed:** Take the number of page you read and divide by 341 and multiply by 100. Example: Read 300pp.  $300 \div 341 \times 100 = 88.2\%$

PERCENTAGE COMPLETED \_\_\_\_\_