**HERMENEUTICS**

**Hermeneutics:** The systematic study of the principles and methods of interpretation of the Bible.

**Exegesis:** Explaining the meaning of the original text; i.e. what the author meant when he wrote to the people of his day.

**Homiletics:** Practical application of the meaning of the text for us today.

**Eisegesis:** Reading a meaning into the text which was not in the original (because of a bias of the interpreter). This is not a good thing!

**Rules of Interpretation**: (a summary)

1. Every passage has one meaning.

2. The most obvious meaning is usually the correct one.

3. Always allow the author’s explanation to stand.

4. Always interpret a passage within the context of the passage, the book, and the

situation.

5. An interpretation of a passage should conform to the environment of the author.

6. Rightly divide books by dispensation, covenant and setting.

7. Interpret every passage in the light of all others.

8. One passage will often explain another.

9. Let plain passages interpret difficult ones.

10. All passages on a subject must be studied before a conclusion is drawn.

11. Observe the proper balance of scriptural truth.

12. Passages should be interpreted in harmony with the idioms contained.

13. Rightly divide the language (grammar and figures of speech).

14. Learn to distinguish the figurative from the literal.

15. Know the meaning of sentences, phrases and words.

16. Rightly divide books by type of literature (poetry, apocalyptic, historical, doctrinal…).

Suggested Text: Gordon and Fee How to Read the Bible For All Its Worth.