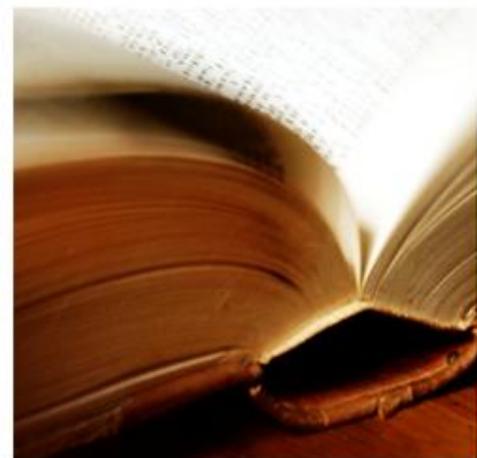
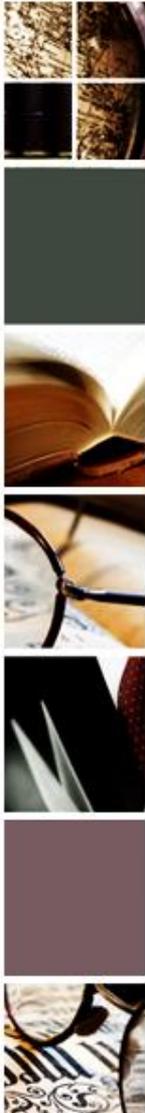


Homiletics and Presentation

Shofar Church - 2010



The Challenge



“Please pray for me, that I may have both spiritual and physical strength to perform my duties; that I may not only speak the truth but become the truth; that I may not only be called a Christian, but also live like a Christian. Yet I do not want people to look to me as an example, for at best I can only be a pale reflection of Christ Jesus; let people look away from the reflection and turn to the reality. Christianity is not a matter of persuading people of particular ideas, but of inviting them to share in the greatness of Christ. So pray that I may never fall into the trap of impressing people with clever speech, but instead I may learn to speak with humility, desiring only to impress people with Christ himself.” - Ignatius of Antioch

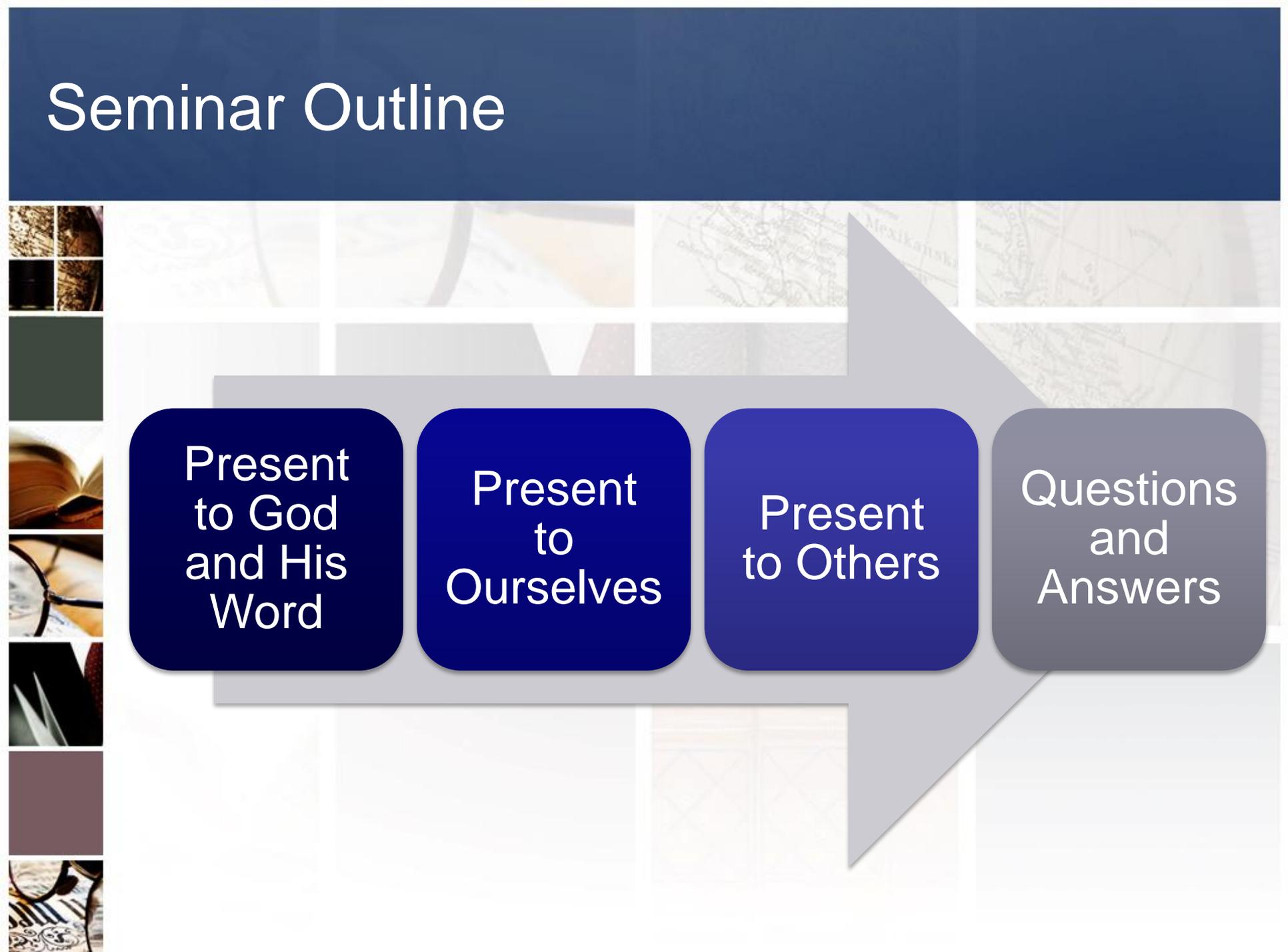
The Example



“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

- John 1:14, NIV

Seminar Outline



Present
to God
and His
Word

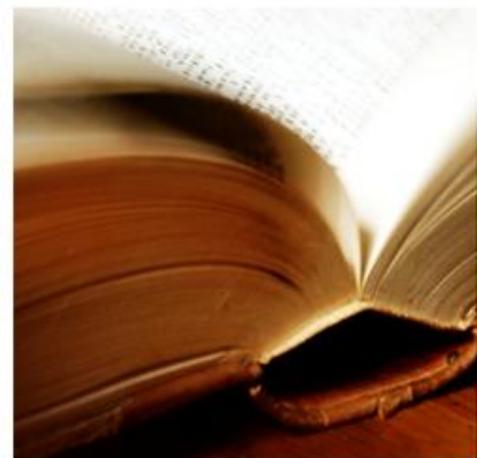
Present
to
Ourselves

Present
to Others

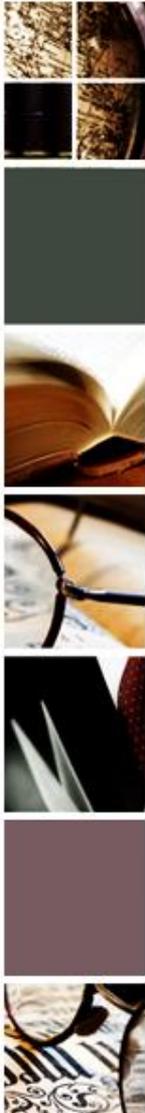
Questions
and
Answers

Present to God and His Word

Session 1



The Unnecessary Choice



“Why do we seem to think we must choose between the two? Why do many Christians live as though they've been told, ‘Choose you this day whom you will serve: scholarship or devotion’?”

I maintain that a Biblically balanced Christian has both a full head and a full heart, radiating both spiritual light and heat.” (Donald S. Whitney)

Human Longing

“Whatever the expression, everyone is ultimately talking about the same thing – an unquenchable fire, a restlessness, a longing, a disquiet, a hunger, a loneliness, a gnawing nostalgia, a wildness that cannot be tamed, a congenital, all-embracing ache that lies at the center of human experience and the ultimate force that drives everything else...”

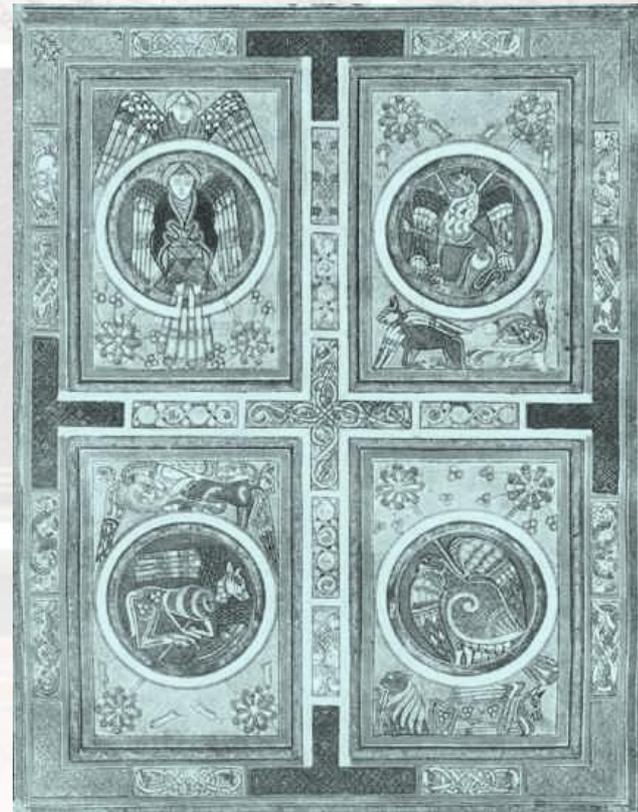
- Ronald Rolheiser



The Bible and Human Longing

“There is a growing and persistent longing [amongst seekers worldwide] for the spiritual nourishment possible only through critical and heartfelt encounter with the ancient text.”

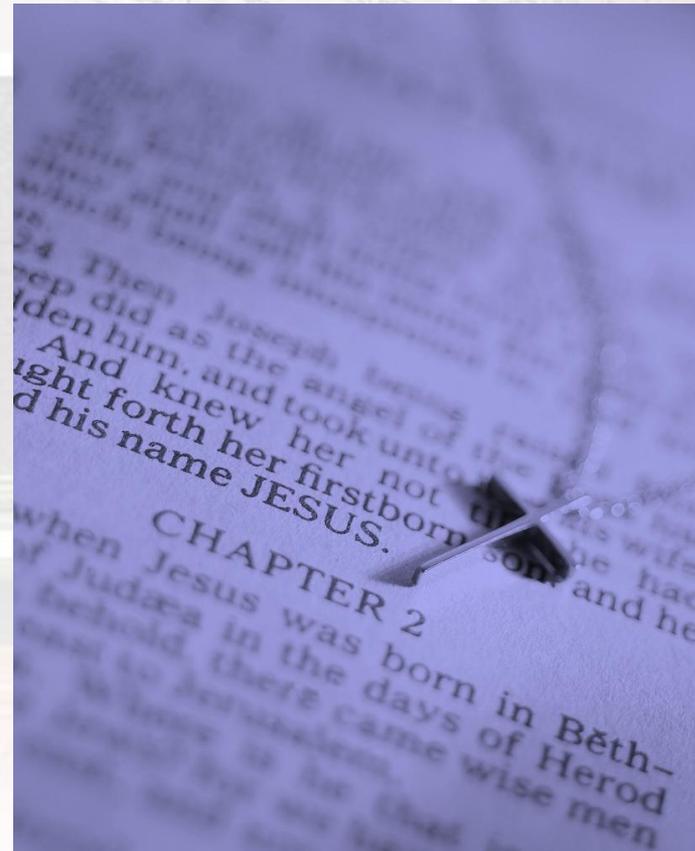
- Gordon T. Smith



The Bible and Thinking

“I thoroughly believe in a University education...but I believe a knowledge of the Bible without a college course is more valuable than a college course without the Bible. Everyone who has a thorough knowledge of the Bible may truly be called educated.”

Attributed to
Dr. William Lyon Phelps
of Yale University



The Role of the Spirit

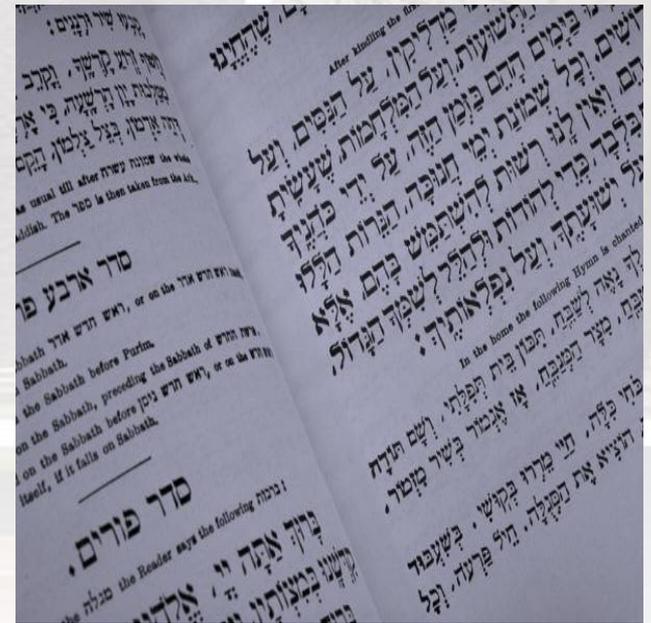
"The Spirit progressively disabuses us of those ideological or idolatrous prejudices that prevent us from receiving the message. In so doing, the Spirit renders the Word effective. To read in the Spirit does not mean to import some new sense to the text, but rather to let the letter be, or better, to apply the letter rightly to one's life. The Spirit of understanding is the efficacy of the Word, its perlocutionary power. According to John Owen, the Spirit is 'the primary efficient cause' of our understanding of Scripture. Yet the Spirit's illumining work is not independent of our own efforts to understand.' It is the Spirit's activity, effected through our own labor in exegesis, analysis, and application, of showing us what the text means for us'."



Vanhoozer, Ken J. (1997) "The Spirit of Understanding: Special Revelation and General Hermeneutics." in *Disciplining Hermeneutics: Interpretation in Christian Perspective*. Foreword by Roger Lundin. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

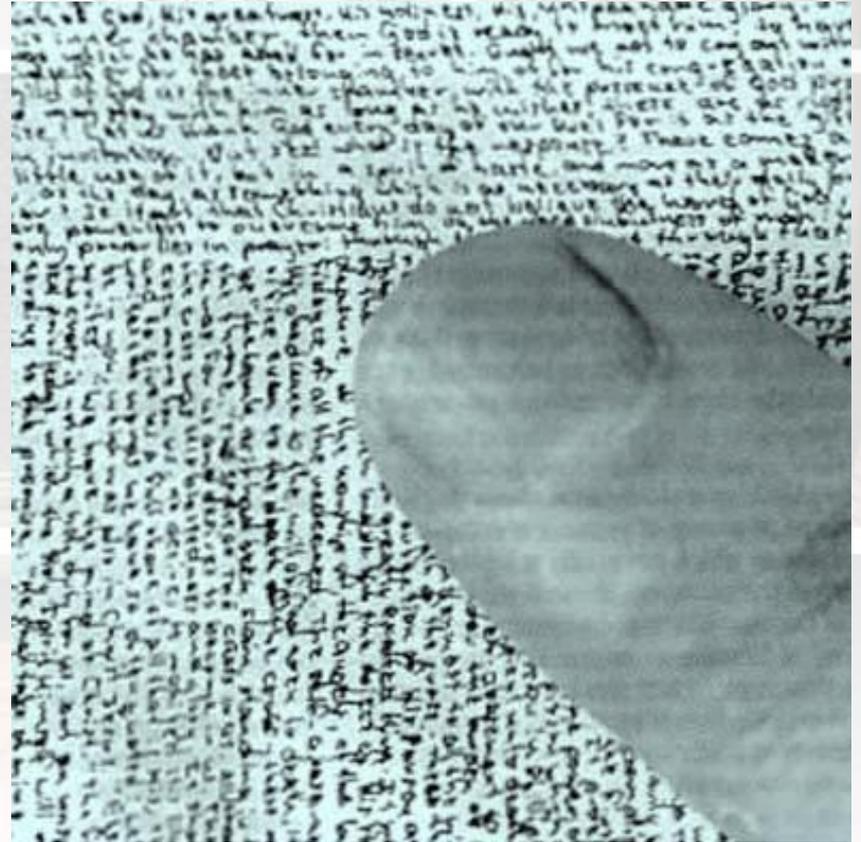
Hermeneutics

The process of interpreting the Bible. It includes all the rules, principles, theory, and methods of interpreting the Bible. It covers the process from trying to understand the original meaning of the verses to what it means to us today.



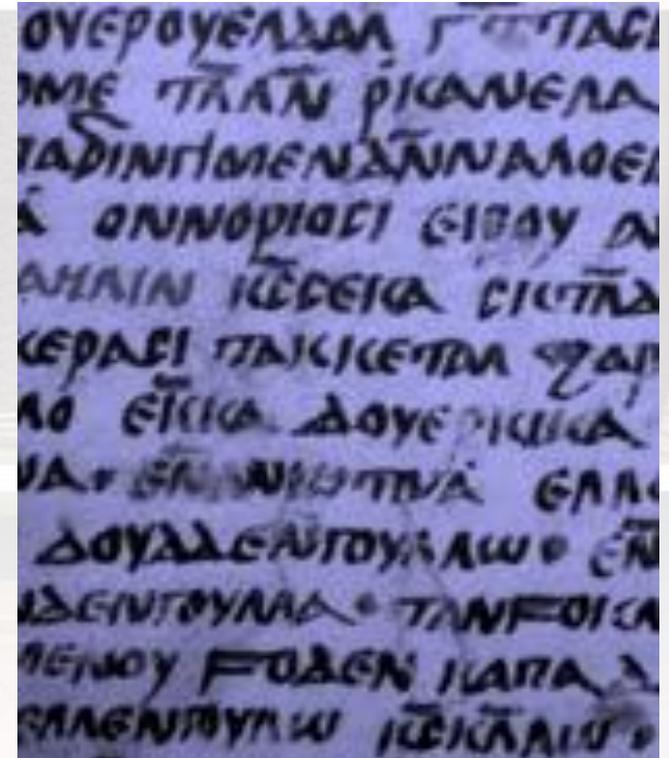
Exegesis

This is the process of interpretation where you are trying to find the original meaning of the verse. It is finding out what was the message that was heard by the original recipient of the Bible.



Exposition

Application of the Bible passages to modern times. This is the process that most of us do will do with the verses of the Bible. It is trying to find the application or relevance of the Bible message for us today. **It is the process that follows exegesis.**



The Process of Hermeneutics

To understand the Bible properly we practice hermeneutics by first applying exegesis because we want to find out the original meaning of the text. Secondly, we do an exposition of the text because we want to apply the message to our lives today.



A Definition of Hermeneutics

Bible Interpretation (Hermeneutics) is the circular process of understanding Sacred Biblical Literature, namely interpreting the component parts of the Sacred Text in the light of the whole and whole in the light of the its parts. It is the ongoing dialogue between one's initial understanding of the Sacred Text and the impressions of the Holy Spirit gathered from subsequent readings and reflections on it. It is the dialogues between one's own frame of reference (one's own sphere of existence) and the context of the text. It is simply allowing the Word of God to speak to us.

See A Concise Dictionary of Theological and Related Terms F. Deist 1992, J.L. van Schaik Pretoria.

A Definition of Hermeneutics

Exegesis

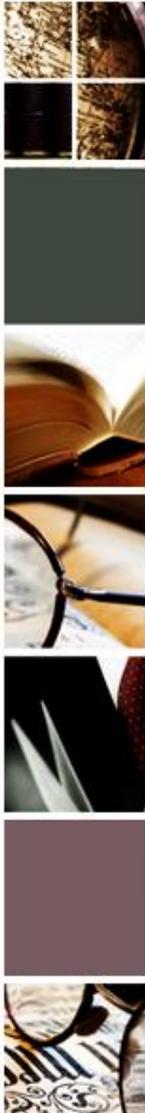


Hermeneutics

Exposition



Why should I study?



“In prayer, theological work is the inner, spiritual and vertically directed motion of man; while I study, although similarly external, it runs in a horizontal direction. It is also an intellectual, and physical, if not fleshly, movement. Theological work can be done only in the indissoluble unity of prayer and study. Prayer without study would be empty. Study without prayer would be blind.”

- Karl Barth

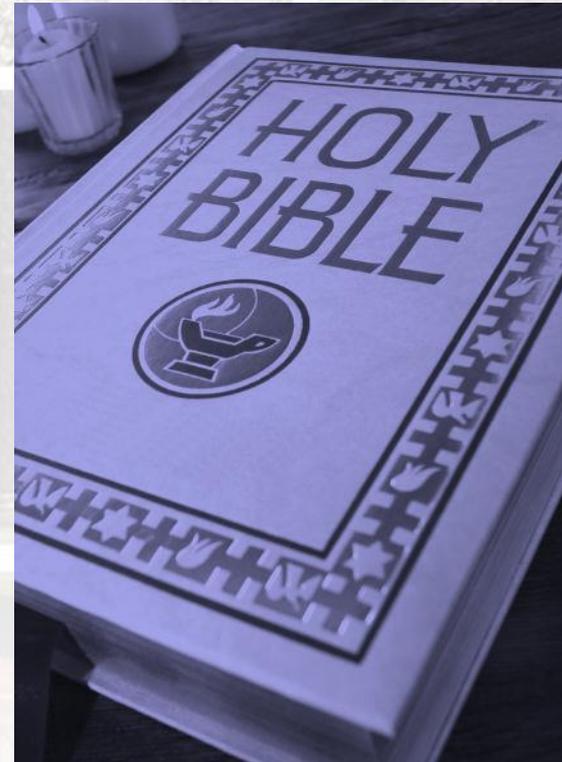
Why should I study?

The purpose of study, as with every other discipline of Biblical Christianity, is the total transformation of the believer. It aims at replacing old destructive habits of thought with new life-giving habits.



Why should I study?

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things.”
(Philippians 4:8).



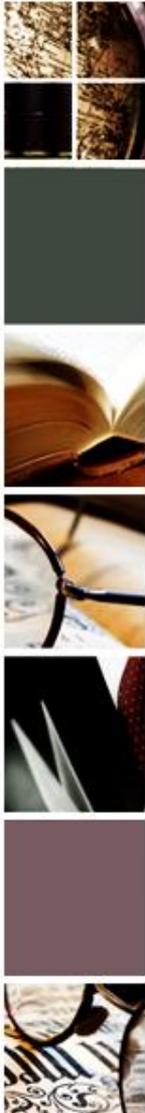
Why do we struggle to study?

“Here then, is the real problem of our negligence. We fail to study God's Word not so much because it is difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is work. Our problem is not a lack of intelligence or a lack of passion. Our problem is that we are lazy.”

– R. C. Sproul



What is study?



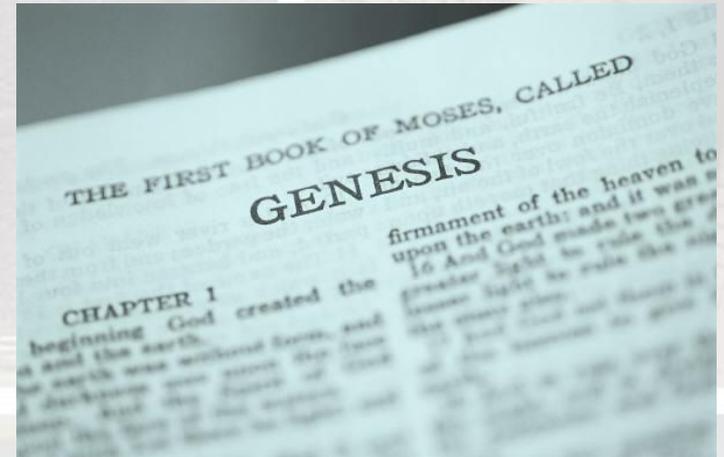
“The spiritual life is not mental life. It is not thoughts alone. Nor is it, of course, a life of sensation, a life of feeling – ‘feeling’ and experiencing the things of the spirit, and the things of God. Nor does the spiritual life exclude thought and feeling. It needs both. It is not just a life concentrated at the ‘high point’ of the soul, a life from which the mind and the imagination and the body are excluded. If it were so few people could lead it. And again, if that were the spiritual life, it would not be a life at all. If man is to live, he must be all alive, body, soul, mind, heart, spirit. Everything must be elevated and transformed by the action of God, in love and faith.”

- Thomas Merton

What is study?

“Study is a specific kind of experience in which through careful observation of objective structures we cause thought processes to move in a certain way.”

– Richard Foster



How do we study?



“We must face the fact that many today are notoriously careless in their living. This attitude finds its way into the church. We have liberty, we have money, we live in comparative luxury. As a result, discipline has disappeared. What would a violin solo sound like if the strings on the musician's instrument were all hanging loose, not stretched tight, not ‘disciplined’?”

- A.W. Tozer

How do we study?

- Choosing the Subject Matter

Repetition

- Focusing on the Central Thought

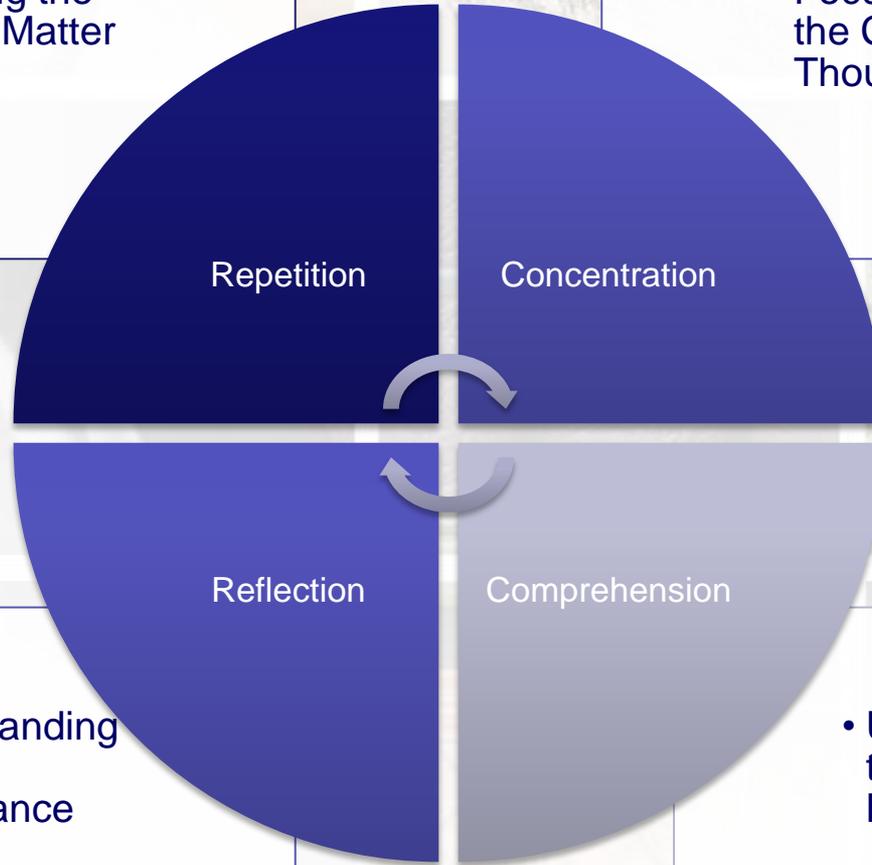
Concentration

Reflection

- Understanding the Significance

Comprehension

- Understanding the Subject Matter



Repetition



“Repetition is a way of regularly channelling the mind in a specific direction, thus ingraining habits of thought. Repetition has received something of a bad name today. It is important, however, to realize that sheer repetition without even understanding what is being repeated does affect the inner mind.”

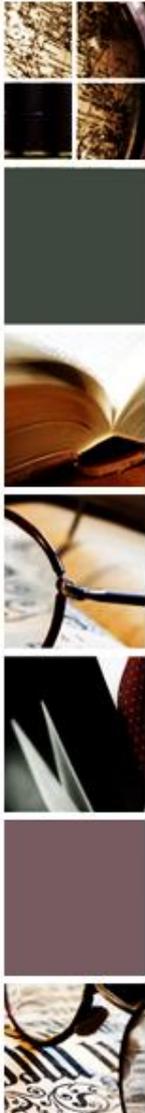
– Richard Foster

Repetition



“Everything is habit in biology, and habits are created only by means of repetition. Experiments have shown how much of our behavior is determined by the mental images to which our minds are constantly returning. If we bring our minds back again and again to God, we shall by the same inevitable law be gradually giving the central place to God, not only in our inner selves, but also in our practical everyday lives.” – Paul Tournier

Concentration



“Concentration centers the mind. It focuses the attention on the thing being studied. The human mind has incredible ability to concentrate. It is constantly receiving thousands of stimuli, every one of which it is able to store in its memory banks while focusing on only a few. This natural ability of the brain is enhanced when with singleness of purpose we centre our attention upon a desired object of study.”

– Richard Foster

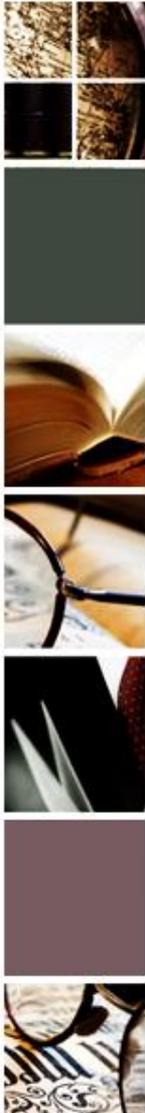
Concentration

“There is no study
that is not capable
of delighting us
after a little
application to it.”

– Alexander Pope



Comprehension



“Comprehension leads to insight and discernment. It provides the basis for a true perception of reality. When we not only repeatedly focus the mind in a particular direction, centering our attention on the subject, but understand the ‘what’ we are studying, we reach a new level.”

- Richard Foster

Comprehension

“To be informed is to know simply that something is the case. To understand is to know, in addition, what it is all about: why it is the case, what its connections are with other facts, in what respect it is the same, in what respect it is different, and so forth.”

- Mortimer Adler



Reflection



“To reflect, to ruminate, on the events of our time will lead us to the inner reality of those events. Reflection brings us to see things from God's perspective. In reflection we come to understand not only our subject matter, but ourselves.”

– Richard Foster

Reflection



“To take a book of the Bible, to immerse one's self in it and to be grasped by it, is to have one's life literally revolutionized. This requires study and the training of attention. The student stays with it through barren day after barren day, until at last the meaning is clear, and transformation happens in his life.”

- Elizabeth O'Conner

How do we study?

- Choosing the Subject Matter

Repetition

- Focusing on the Central Thought

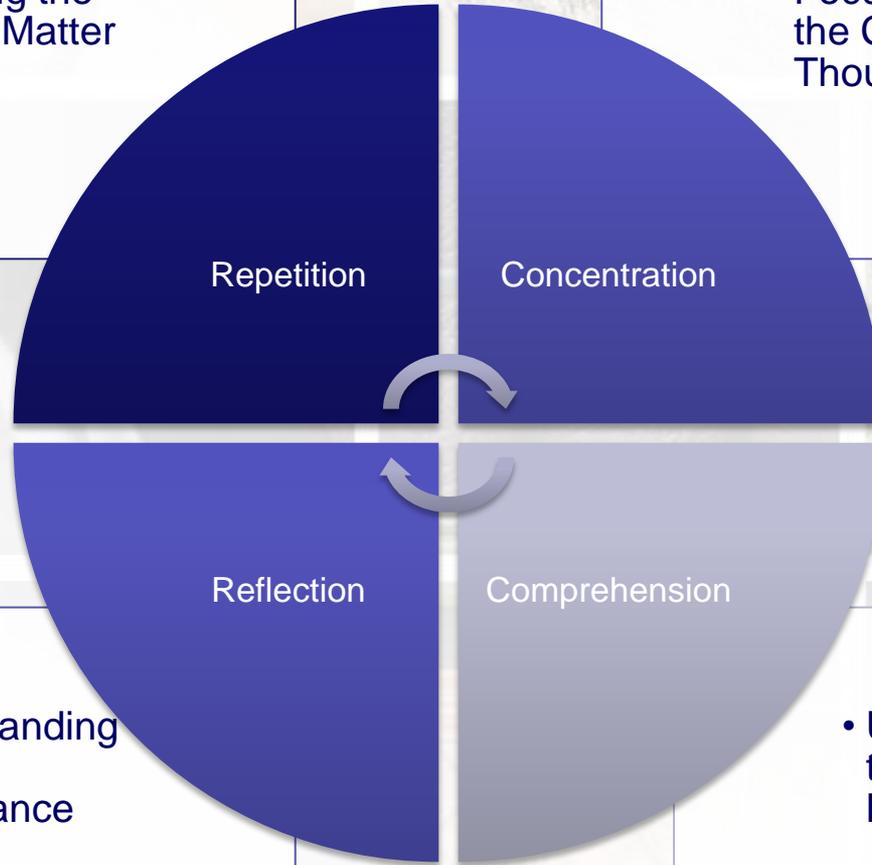
Concentration

Reflection

- Understanding the Significance

Comprehension

- Understanding the Subject Matter

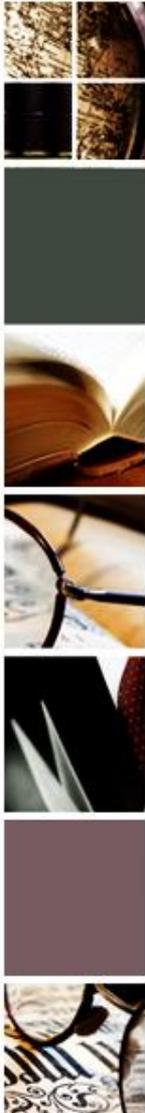


A Practical Exercise in Study

**“Jesus,
Saviour,
Son of God,
have mercy
on me.”**



What to Study?



“He that studies only men, will get the body of knowledge without the soul; and he that studies only books, the soul without the body. He that, to what he sees, adds observation, and to what he reads, reflection, is in the right road to knowledge, provided that in scrutinizing the hearts of others, he neglects not his own...”

- Caleb Colton

What to Study?

“No spiritual discipline is more important than the intake of God's Word. Nothing can substitute it. There simply is no healthy Christian life apart from a diet of the milk and meat of Scripture. The reason for this is obvious. In the Bible God tells us about Himself, and especially about Jesus Christ, the incarnation of God.”
- Donald Whitney



Questions when Studying Verbal Sources

1. What does this communicate about God?
2. How does this change my perception of reality?
3. What does this teach me about the Bible?
4. How does this affect my devotion unto Jesus?
5. What practical things can I do based upon this truth?
6. How does this affect my life, decision, and goals?
7. What skills have I learned?

Intrinsic Rules in Reading a Book

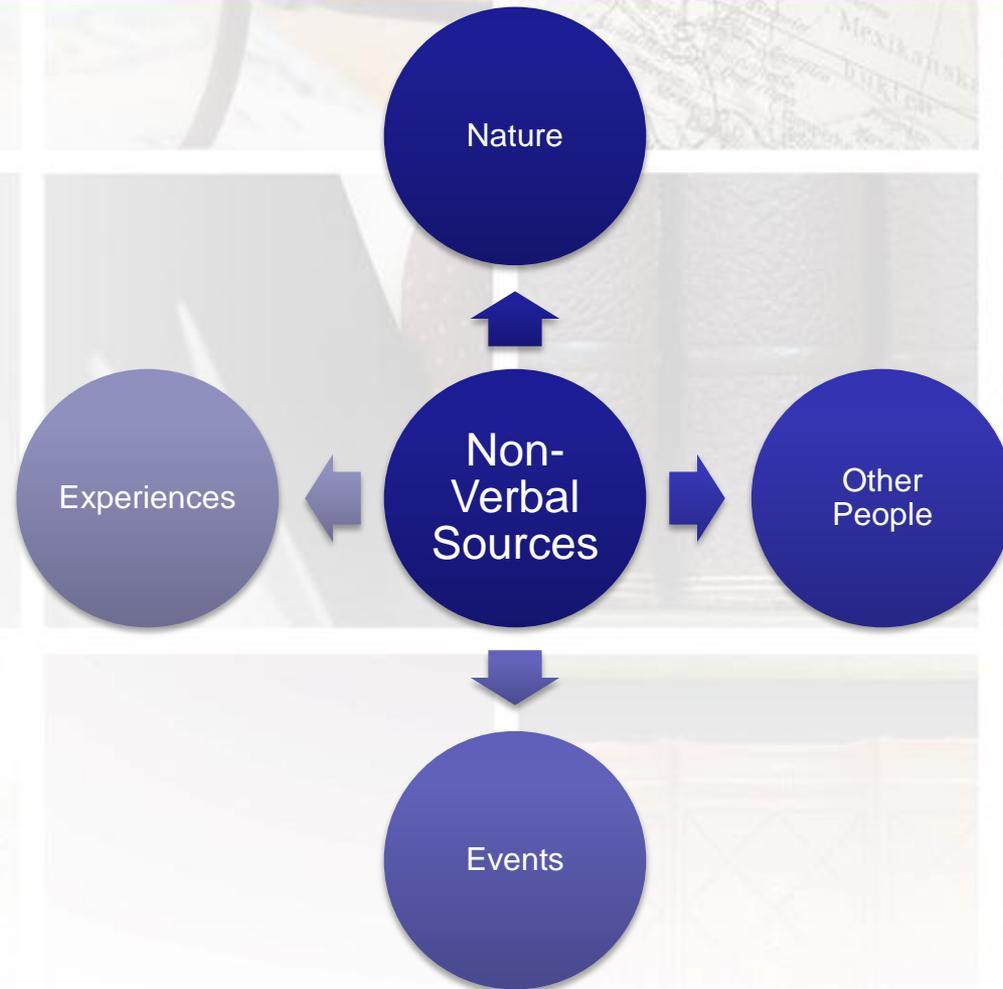
1. The first reading involves *understanding* the book: *What is the author saying?*
2. The second reading involves *interpreting* the book: *What does the author mean?*
3. The third reading involves *evaluating* the book: *Is the author right or wrong?*

Extrinsic Rules in Reading a Book

1. *Experience* as tempered by our understanding of the truths of the Bible is one of the ways we can interpret and relate to what we read. Experience that has been understood and reflected upon and compared with Scriptural truths informs and enlightens our study.
2. *Other books* can include dictionaries, commentaries and other interpretative literature, but more significant are other great books that precede or further the issue being studied.
3. It is important to include a cautionary note here in regards to the reading of books. Richard Foster warns us, when he writes: *“Remember that the key to the discipline of study is not reading many books, but experiencing what we do read.”*



Studying Non-Verbal Sources



Thinking and Humility

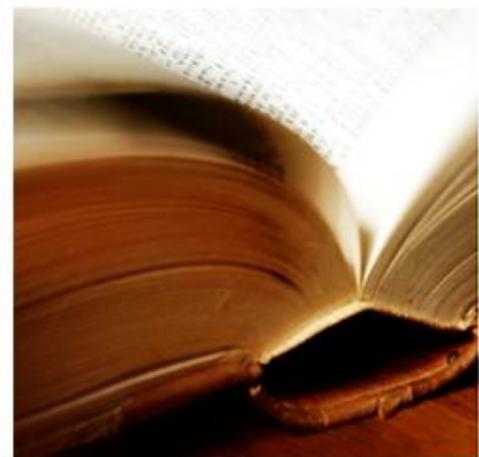


“It soon becomes obvious that study demands humility. It cannot happen until we are willing to be subject to the subject matter. We must submit to the system. We must come as student, not teacher. Not only is study directly dependent upon humility, but it is conducive to it. Arrogance and a teachable spirit are mutually exclusive. All of us know individuals who have taken some course of study or attained some academic degree who parade their information in an offensive manner. We should feel profound sorrow for such people. They do not understand the spiritual discipline of study. They have mistaken the accumulation of information for knowledge. They equate the spouting of words with wisdom. How tragic!”

– Richard Foster

Present to Ourselves

Session 2



The Consequence of the Fall: Living Life Backwards

“After Adam had passed through the center of himself and emerged on the other side to escape from God by putting himself between himself and God, he had mentally reconstructed the whole universe in his own image and likeness.”

- Thomas Merton



K.O. Lab (2001) "Live"

The Three Shaping Forces in the Ministry of Jesus



¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.

¹⁴But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

¹⁶As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.

¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

The Three Shaping Forces in the Ministry of Jesus

Located in the World

“Jesus....
came.... to be
Baptized”

Empowered by the Spirit

“The Spirit of
God
descending...”

Grounded in Divine Love

“This is My
Son, Whom I
love...”

The Three Instinctual Needs Challenged



Survival/Security

Esteem/Affection

Power/Control

The Three Instinctual Needs Challenged



Survival/Security

- “Man shall not live by Bread alone”

Esteem/Affection

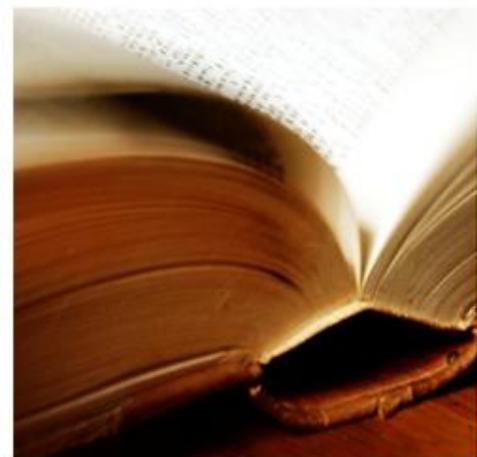
- “You shall not tempt the Lord your God.”

Power/Control

- “You shall worship God only.”

Present to Others

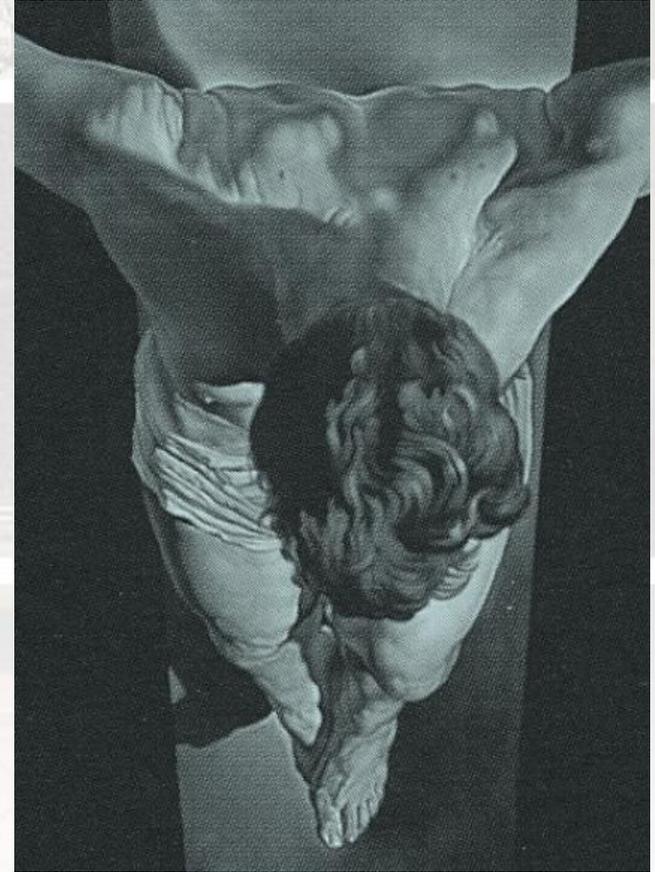
Session 3



Five Values in the Ministry of Jesus

“Your attitude
(mind) should be
the same as that
of Jesus
Christ...”

(Philippians 2:5)



Five Values in the Ministry of Jesus

1. Willingness to be Empty of Self.
2. Taking a Form of a Servant.
3. Coming in the Likeness of a Human.
4. Active Humility.
5. Radical Obedience.

Five Values in Homiletics

1. We do not use the pulpit to promote ourselves or our agenda.
2. The structure and focus of our messages remain to serve the Body of Christ.
3. The pulpit is used to communicate our common bond and position in Christ.
4. The pulpit is the nexus of radical humility and extreme deference to Christ.
5. The pulpit serves to promote life-long obedience to Christ.

Luther on the need for clear presentation

“Three great abuses have befallen the service of God. First, God’s Word is not proclaimed: there is only reading and singing in the churches. Second, because God’s Word has been suppressed, many unchristian inventions and lies have sneaked into the services of reading, singing and preaching and they are horrible to see. Third, such service of God is being undertaken as a good work by which one hopes to obtain God’s grace and salvation...”



Questions and Answers

Session 4

