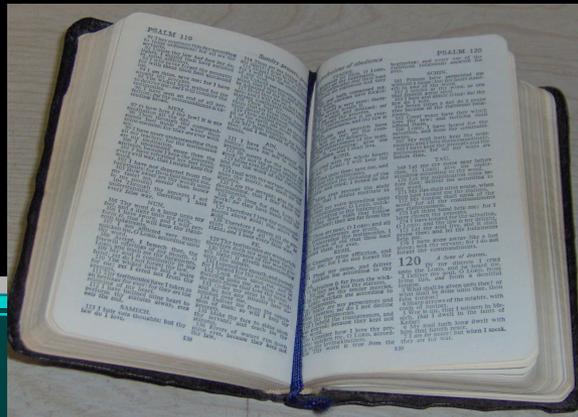


# NT 123 Hermeneutics



Vern Sheridan Poythress

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# I. Course Arrangements



What can I expect?

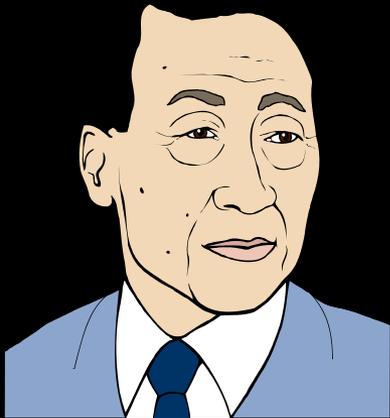
What are the assignments?

How is it organized?

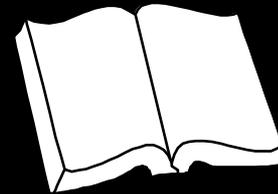


# The Challenge

That's just your interpretation!



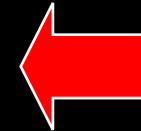
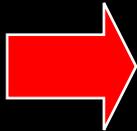
The Bible says that Jesus is the only way to God.



# A. Goals for the Course

# The Basic Goal

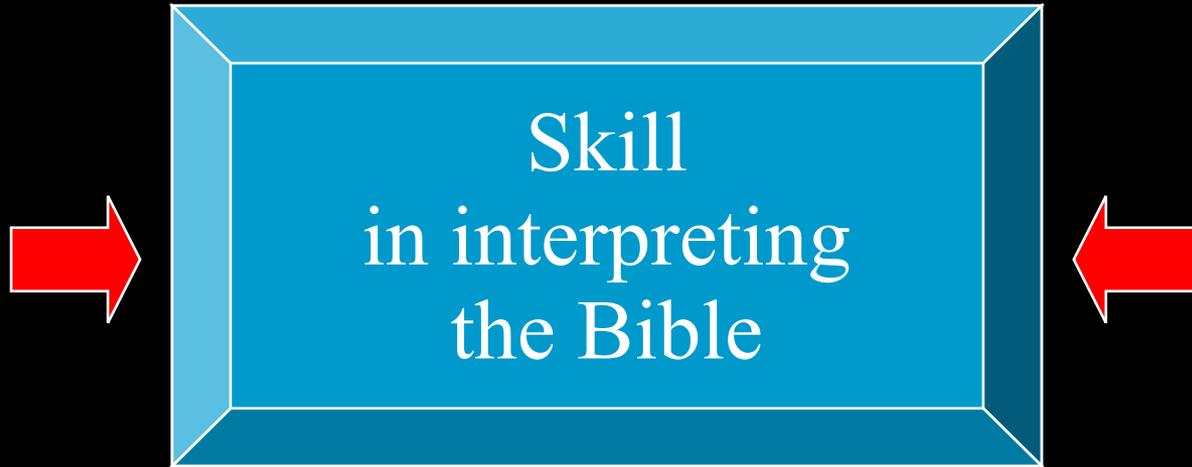
Skill  
in interpreting  
the Bible



Big challenge!



# The Basic Goal



- ◆ The basic goal is for you to become more skilled in understanding, interpreting, and applying the Bible.

# — Achieving the Goal →

All of life heads toward the goal.

Every course at the Seminary.

Within NT 123, we focus on:

broad theological  
framework for  
interpretation

techniques useful  
for particular  
aspects of study

# — Achieving the Goal —→

All of life, and every course in the Seminary curriculum, should promote the basic, comprehensive goal.

Within NT 123, we focus on:

broad theological  
framework for  
interpretation

techniques useful  
for particular  
aspects of study

## B. Overview

# Basic Guides

- ◆ The syllabus
- ◆ Lecture Notes
- ◆ Electronic files:  
<http://campus.wts.edu/~vpoythress/nt123/nt123.html>

# Basic Guides

- ◆ The syllabus (handed out)
- ◆ Electronic files:  
<http://campus.wts.edu/~vpoythress/nt123/nt123.html>
- ◆ Handout indicates expected due dates.
- ◆ Handout includes bibliography.

My handout for the first day indicates expected due dates for all assignments, and includes a bibliography of writings on various aspects of hermeneutics.

# Course Responsibilities

- ◆ See the Syllabus.

## C. Assignments and Grading

# Kinds of Assignments

- ◆ Reading assignments.
- ◆ Short analysis papers.
- ◆ A final exam.
- ◆ One biblical-theological paper.

# Kinds of Assignments

- ◆ Reading assignments.
- ◆ Short analysis papers will be assigned as we reach the appropriate point in the lectures.
- ◆ A final exam will cover the whole course.
- ◆ You will write one biblical-theological paper.

## D. Important Information

# Prerequisites

- ◆ NT 101, 103 New Testament Introduction.
- ◆ NT 013 (Greek)
- ◆ OT 013 (Hebrew)

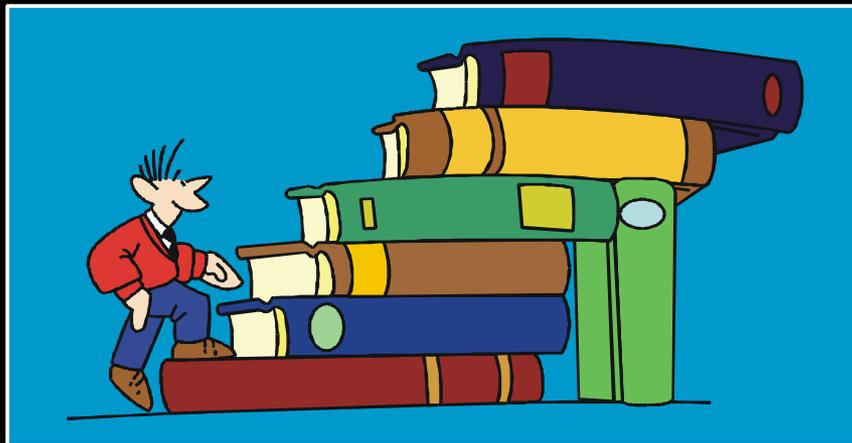
# Prerequisites

NT 123 requires as prerequisites:

- ◆ NT 101, 103 New Testament Introduction.
- ◆ NT 013 or equivalent (Greek), completed or in progress.
- ◆ OT 013 or equivalent (Hebrew), completed or in progress.

# Start on Reading Assignments

- ◆ Reading assignments.
- ◆ Read before I discuss in class.
- ◆ Roland Allen's book is sometimes out of print. Leave time to share library reserve copies.



# Start on Reading Assignments

- ◆ Reading assignments.
- ◆ Try to keep up, and read the assignments before I discuss the topic in class.
- ◆ Roland Allen's book is sometimes out of print. Leave time so that not everyone wants to use the library copies at the same time.

# Prepare for Exercises

- ◆ Study Isaiah 51:17-23 and 52:7-12 in Hebrew.



Be ready!

# Prepare for Exercises

- ◆ Some exercises are based on Isaiah 51:17-23 or 52:7-12. Familiarize yourself beforehand with the Hebrew.



Be ready!

# In Class

- ◆ Bring the NT 123 Lecture Notes.
- ◆ Bring an English Bible.

Needless  
excess!



# The Lecture Notes

- ◆ Contains almost all visual materials.
- ◆ In class, listen and take notes (don't look at syllabus).
- ◆ Use it for class exercises.

Think!



# The Syllabus

- ◆ The lecture notes contain almost all the visual materials shown on screen.
- ◆ In class, listen and take notes without referring to the lecture notes.
- ◆ But when we come to exercises, use it.

Think!



# Asking Questions

- ◆ I value interaction.
- ◆ But the class is large.
- ◆ Ask only for
  - clarification
  - everyone else's question



# Asking Questions



- ◆ I value interaction.
- ◆ But the class is large.
- ◆ Ask only for
  - clarification
  - when you think others have the same question.



# Other Routes for Questions

- ◆ Posted office hours.
- ◆ Written questions in my mail box. (Sign in order to be sure of a reply.)
- ◆ Email to [vpoythress@wts.edu](mailto:vpoythress@wts.edu)
  - I answer it in class
  - Or give written answer
  - Or invite an office hour

# Other Routes for Questions

- ◆ You may see me during posted office hours.
- ◆ You may put written questions in my mail box. (Sign in order to be sure of a reply.)
- ◆ Email to [vpoythress@wts.edu](mailto:vpoythress@wts.edu)
  - If the question is of wider interest, I may answer it in class (but without mentioning the student name).
  - Or I may give you a written answer or invite you to an office hour conversation.

# Organization of the Course

## I. Course Arrangements

**Introduction: (now)**

## II. Foundations of Biblical Interpretation

**Theological framework**

## III. Steps in Biblical Interpretation

**Techniques.**

That's it!



# Organization of the Course

## I. Course Arrangements

**Introduction: what we are doing now**

## II. Foundations of Biblical Interpretation

**Theological framework for interpreting**

## III. Basic Steps in Biblical Interpretation

**Techniques.**

**Section III is basic,**

**and later sections expand on it.**

# Steps in Interpretation

- ◆ Three times through the process.

1 : elementary

III. C. Three Steps in Interpretation

2 : intermediate

III. F. Steps for sermon preparation

3 : elaborate

IV.-XI. Particular topics



Don't  
get lost!

# Steps in Interpretation

- ◆ We go through the entire process of interpretation three times.

- First time through: elementary

III. C. Three Steps in Interpretation

- Second time through: intermediate

III. F. Steps for sermon preparation

- Third time through: elaborate

IV.-XI. Particular topics



# Focusing In

Three Elementary Steps: ① ② ③



Finer Focus: ① abc ② abcde ③ abcde ④ abc ⑤



Finest Focus: ②d ③b



concentrate on difficult and challenging areas

# My Approach as a Teacher

- ◆ An introductory course.
- ◆ Scientific rather than poetic mentality.
- ◆ Method subordinate to sanctity.
- ◆ Important things said only once.

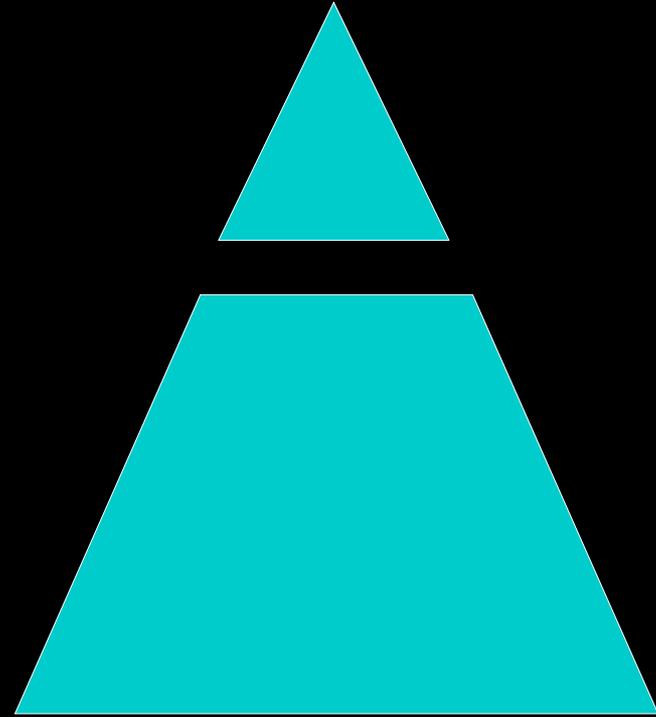
# My Approach as a Teacher

- ◆ It is an introductory course.
- ◆ I emphasize scientific rather than poetic mentality, rationality rather than intuition. (Both are significant. I focus on the one that is more teachable.)
- ◆ Method is subordinate to sanctity.
- ◆ I may say important things only once.

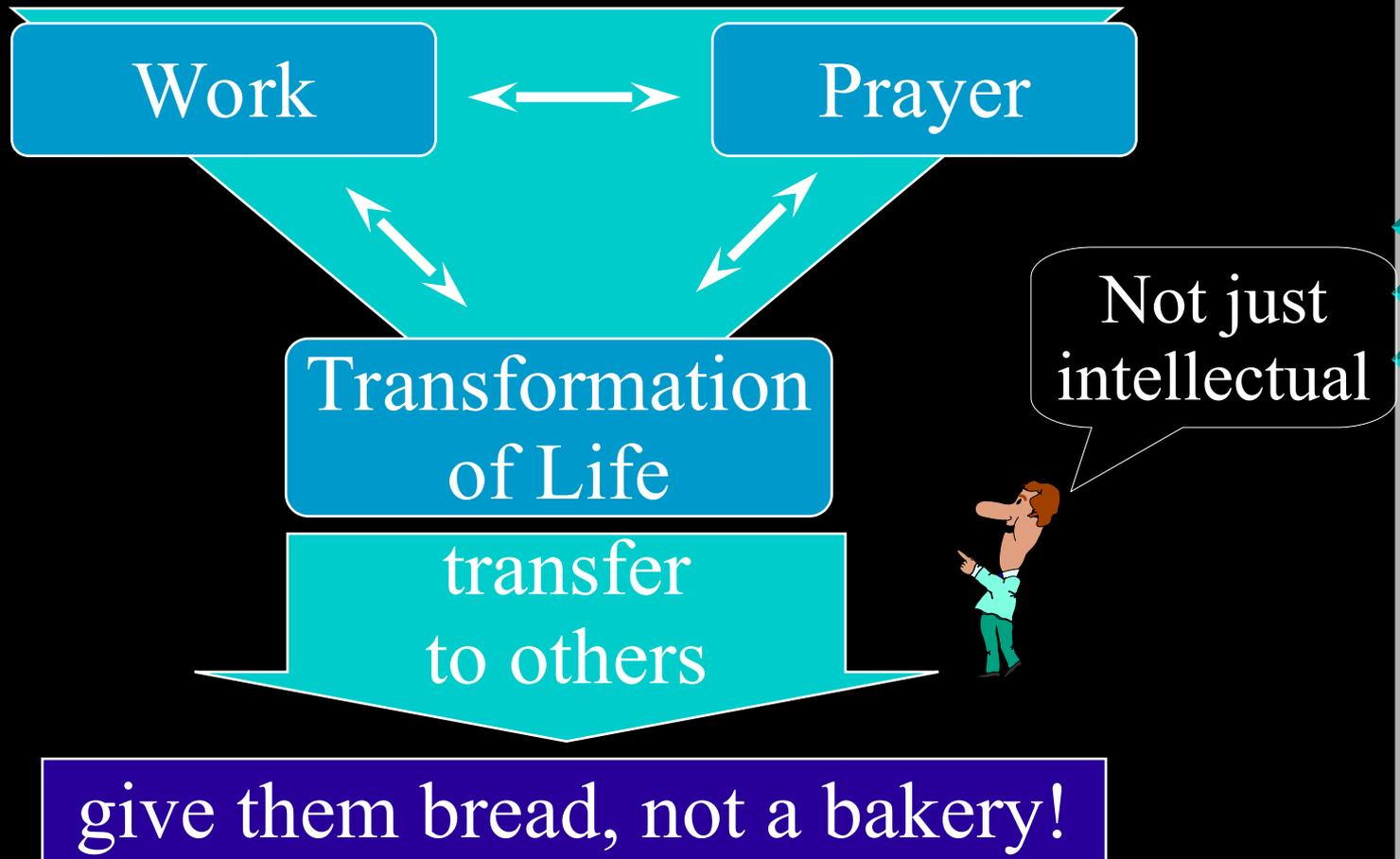
# Simplicity

Accessible ideas

With depth



# Your Responsibilities as a Student



# Attentiveness

## Multitasking?

- ◆ Courtesy to teacher
- ◆ Depth and application
- ◆ No internet or computer games or cell phones

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandments of the LORD is pure, enlight'ning the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever; The judgments of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.