

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?

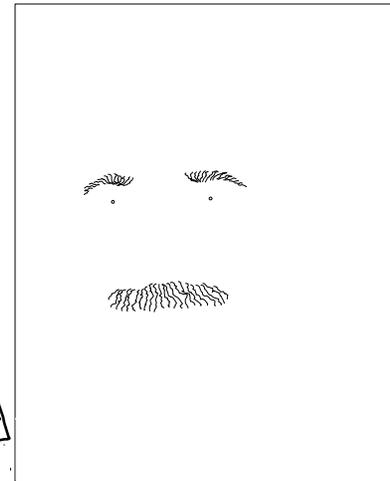
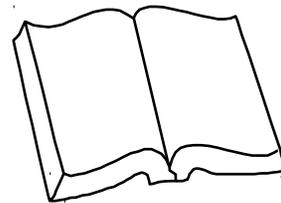


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The Challenge

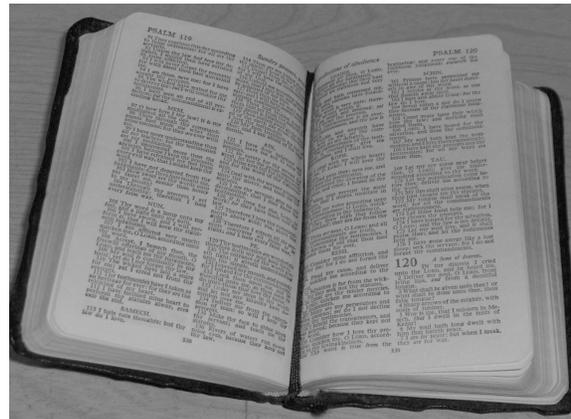
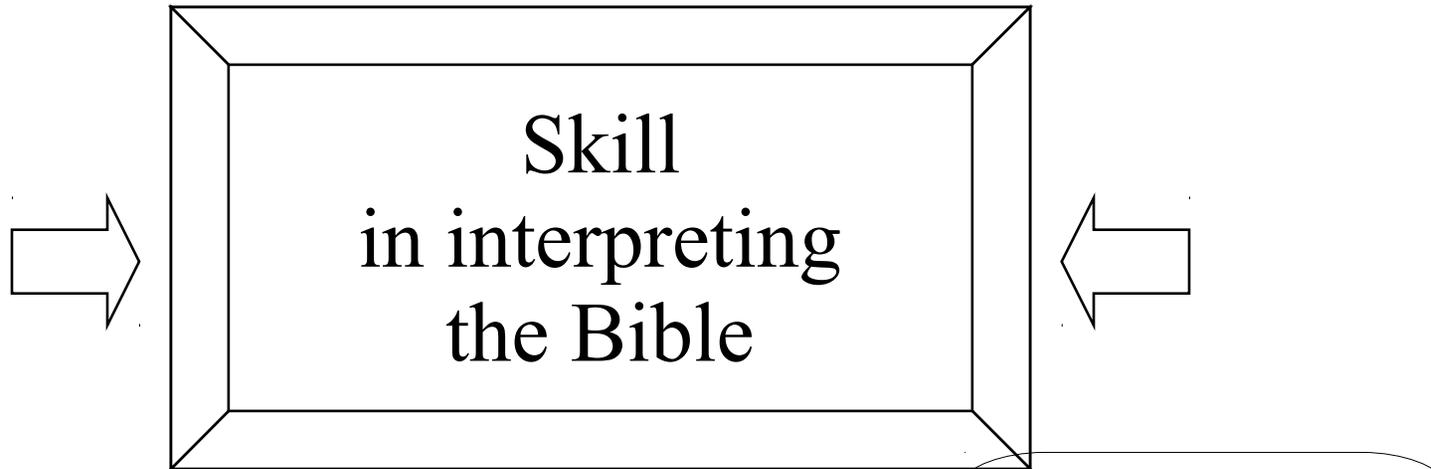
That's just your interpretation!

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



A. Goals for the Course

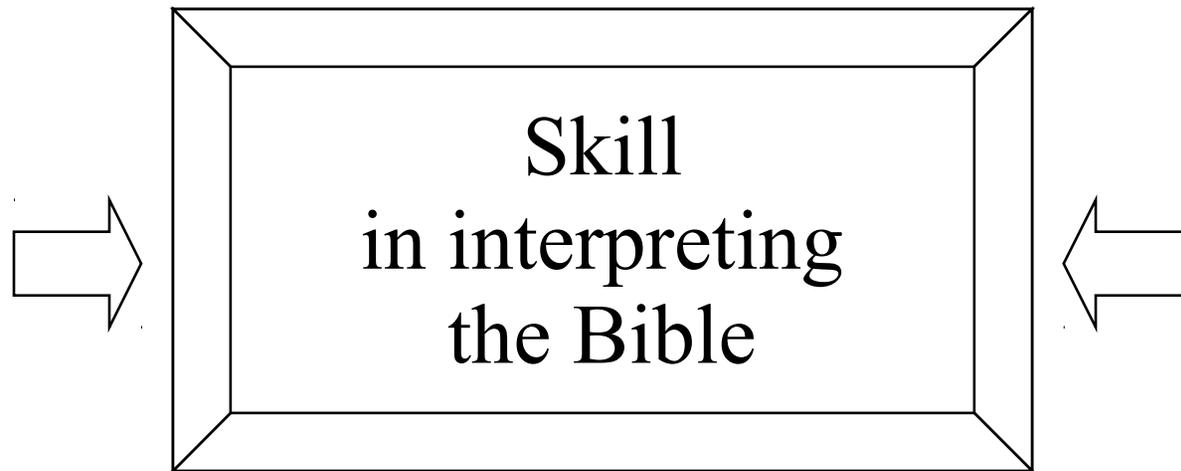
The Basic Goal



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

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 pp. 1.1-1.2 in the Syllabus.

C. Assignments and Grading

Kinds of Assignments

- Reading assignments (pp. 1.1-1.2).
- Short analysis papers.
- A final exam.
- One biblical-theological paper.

Kinds of Assignments

- Reading assignments are summarized on pp. 1.1-1.2.
- 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)

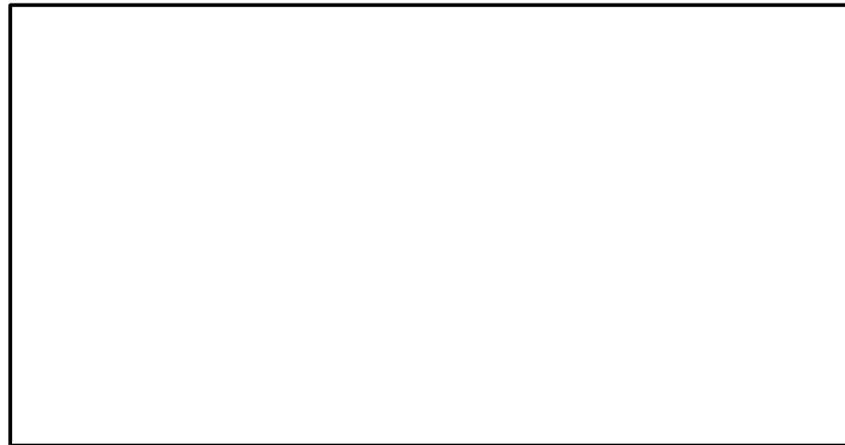
Prerequisites

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 are on pp. 1.1-1.2.
- Read before I discuss in class.
- Roland Allen's book and Dodd's are out of print. Leave time to share library reserve copies.



Start on Reading Assignments

- Reading assignments are given on pp. 1.1-1.2.
- Try to keep up, and read the assignments before I discuss the topic in class.
- Roland Allen's book and Dodd's are 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.



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 syllabus.
- Bring an English Bible.

Needless
excess!



The Syllabus

- 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 syllabus contains almost all the visual materials shown on screen.
- In class, listen and take notes without referring to the syllabus.
- 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
 - 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
 - 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



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

Don't get lost!

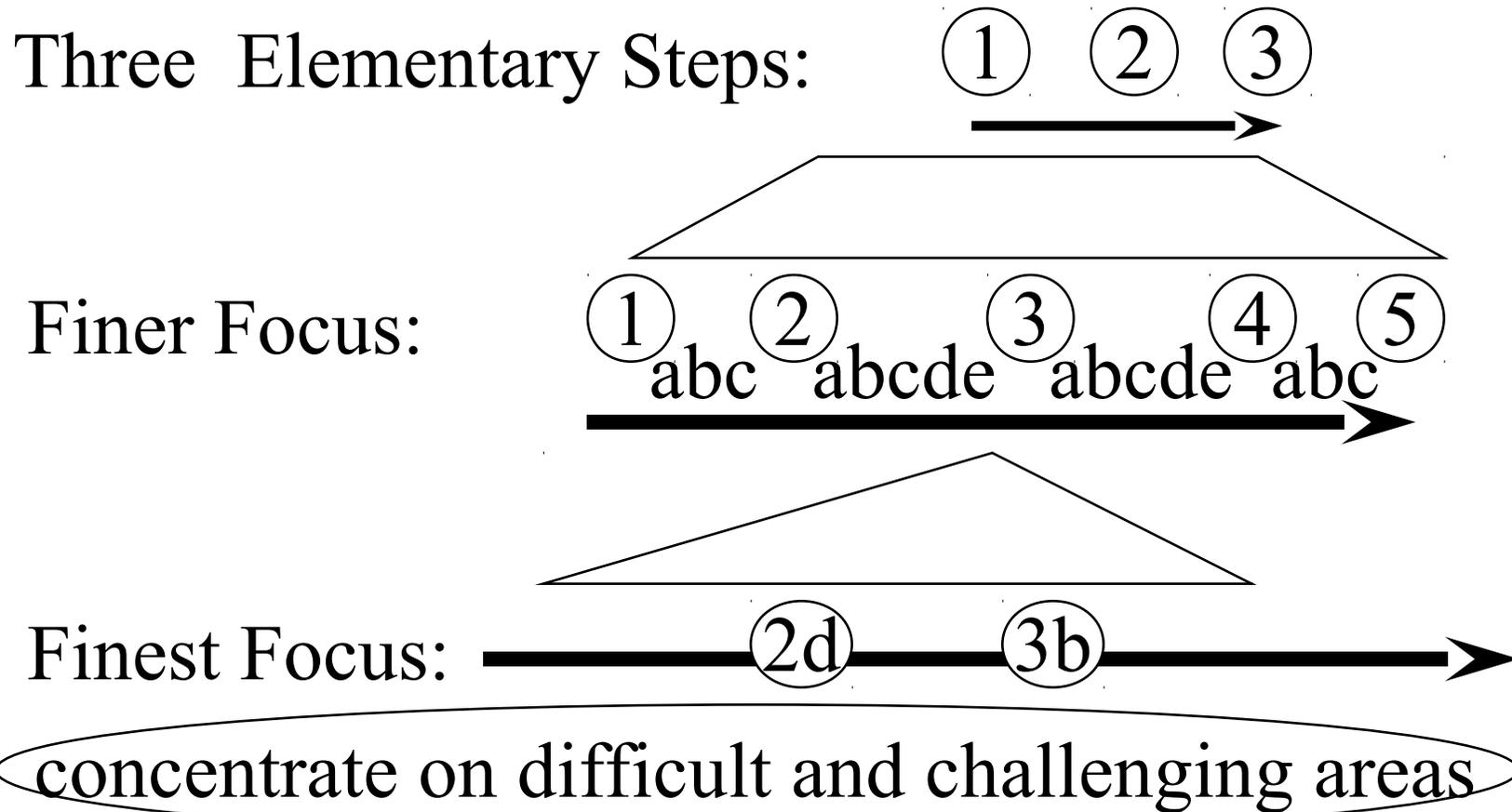
- III. F. Steps for sermon preparation

- Third time through: elaborate

- IV.-XI. Particular topics



Focusing In



My Approach as a Teacher

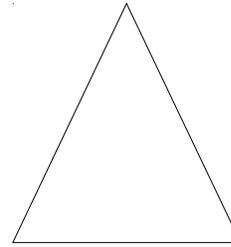
- An introductory course.
- Scientific rather than poetic mentality.
- Method subordinate to sanctity.
- Important things said only once.

My Approach as a Teacher

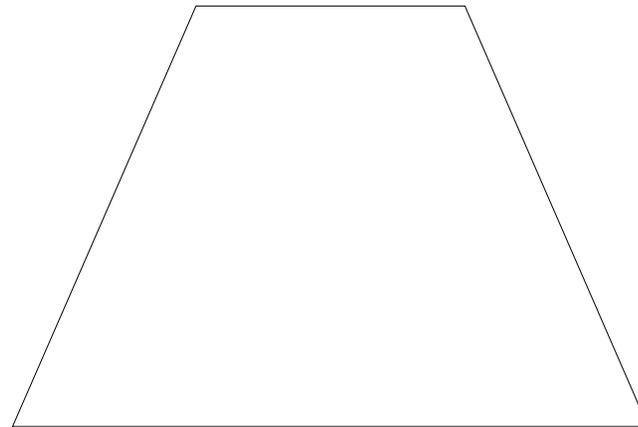
- It is an introductory course.
- I emphasize scientific rather than poetic mentality, rationality rather than intuition. (Both are significant. I focus on the one that is more teachable.)
- Method is subordinate to sanctity.
- I may say important things only once.

Simplicity

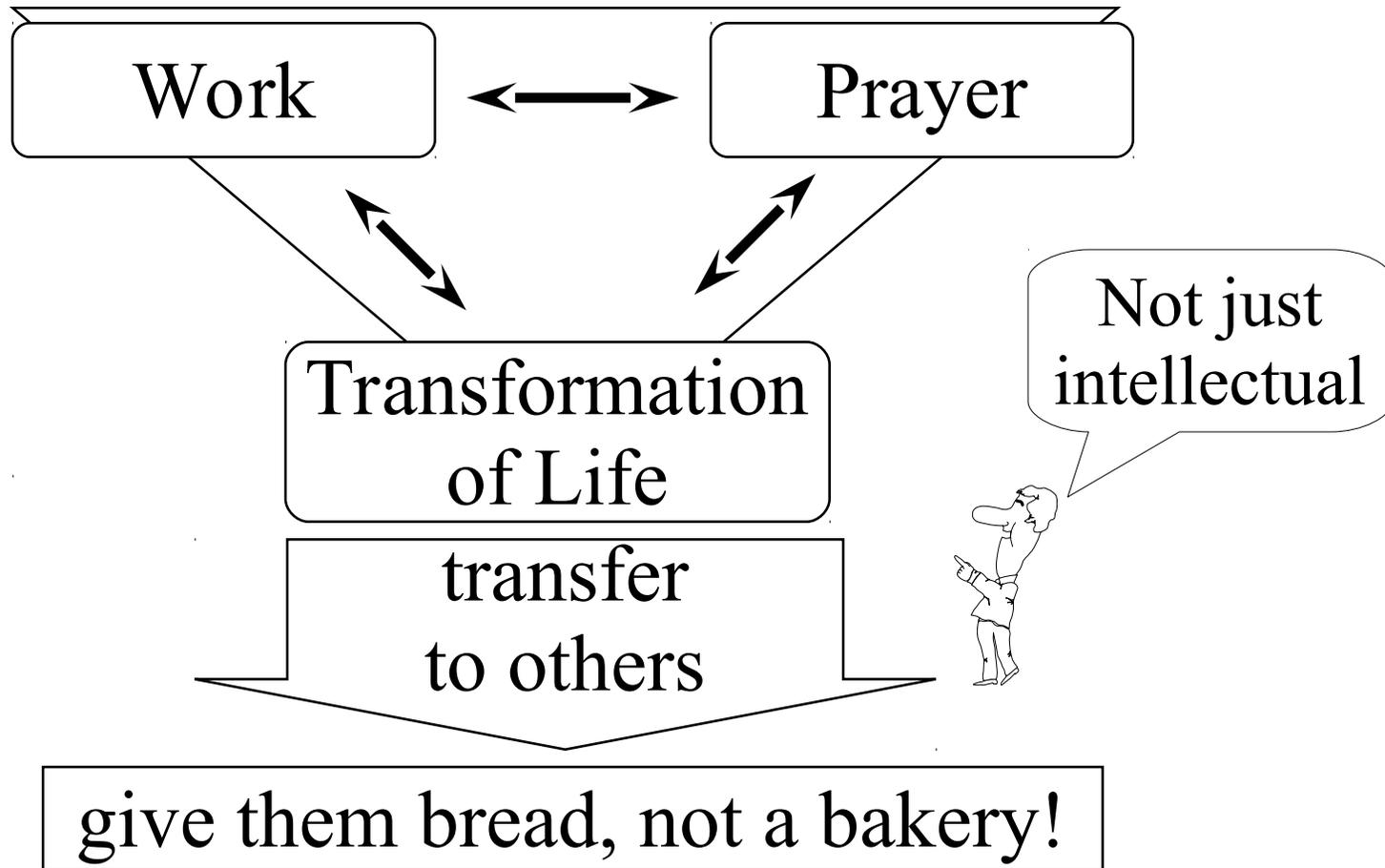
Accessible ideas



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.