

BIBLE: BASIC HERMENEUTIC TERMS EXPLAINED Mr. Galloway BS, M.Div.

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HERMENEUTICS = It is the skill of accurately interpreting the MEANING of what someone else wrote or spoke. This should not yet involve agreeing or disagreeing. Before you choose to agree or disagree with someone, you must first be sure you accurately understood (interpreted) what he was trying to communicate. This applies to interpreting any communication, not just the Bible. It is an important skill even when trying to understand an email, text, tweet, or verbal conversation. The majority of conflict and disagreement among people is due to misunderstanding (misinterpreting) what the other person really MEANT. Wrong assumptions are often made, which then causes emotional hurt, fear, or bitterness. Then sometimes a dangerous cycle of misunderstanding, negative emotions, and broken relationships result – in marriages, families, churches, or among friends (like students!).

EXEGESIS = is the RIGHT way to interpret (to do hermeneutics). It means to accurately “draw OUT” the author’s meaning only. The prefix “EX” reminds you of EXIT, and the idea of OUT.

EISEGESIS = is the WRONG way to interpret. It means to “put IN” or add into your interpretation YOUR own assumptions about the subject. We often “READ INTO” something meanings that the author did not intend.

TRANSLATION = is the process of spelling the MEANING of a term from one language into your language. Like the Hebrew תּוֹרָה TRANSLATED to English term LAW.

TRANSLITERATION = is the process of spelling the SOUND of a term from one language into your language. Like the Hebrew תּוֹרָה TRANSLITERATED to English TORAH, which *means* law.

Another example is the name **JESUS**. “Jesus” is a word in English letters that communicates the SOUND of the original Hebrew/Greek name. So it is a TRANSLITERATION of the SOUND of the Hebrew word, using English letters. The MEANING of that name or word is GOD-SAVIOR. So GOD-SAVIOR is the TRANSLATION of the name.

Another example is the name **HANNAH**. Hannah is the English letter TRANSLITERATION of the SOUND of the Hebrew word used as a name. The MEANING of “Hannah” written in English letters is GRACE. So “grace” is the TRANSLATION.

AUTHORITY of the Bible = is a concept stating that the Bible is highest judge of truth over any subject about which it speaks.

INERRANCY of the Bible = is a concept stating that the Bible is without error.

SUFFICIENCY of the Bible = is a concept stating that the Bible is ENOUGH (all we need) to build good relationships with God (vertically) and other people (horizontally – parents, spouse, children, friends, coworkers, etc.).

PERSPECUITY of the Bible = is a concept stating that God led the writing of the Bible (His Word) to be so clear and simple that even a youth can understand (interpret) what it says.