

Hermeneutics

SEMINAR

LEARN HOW TO ACCURATELY INTERPRET SCRIPTURE

With Teaching from Pastor Charles Heck

What are
Some Right
Principles
of Hermeneutics?

Sessions 3 - 6

Defining Hermeneutics

- Derived from Greek God Hermes, who interpreted messages from gods to the mortals
- From the Greek word *hermeneuo*, used 3x in the Bible: John 1:42; 9:8; Hebrews 7:2



Principles of Good Hermeneutics:

#1 - Rely on the Holy Spirit.

- II Peter 1:21
- Without the Holy Spirit, people are blinded to the truth (I Cor 2:12, 14; II Cor 4:4).
- Illumination: the ministry of the Spirit whereby He opens our minds to God's Word and makes it come alive to us as God speaks through its pages

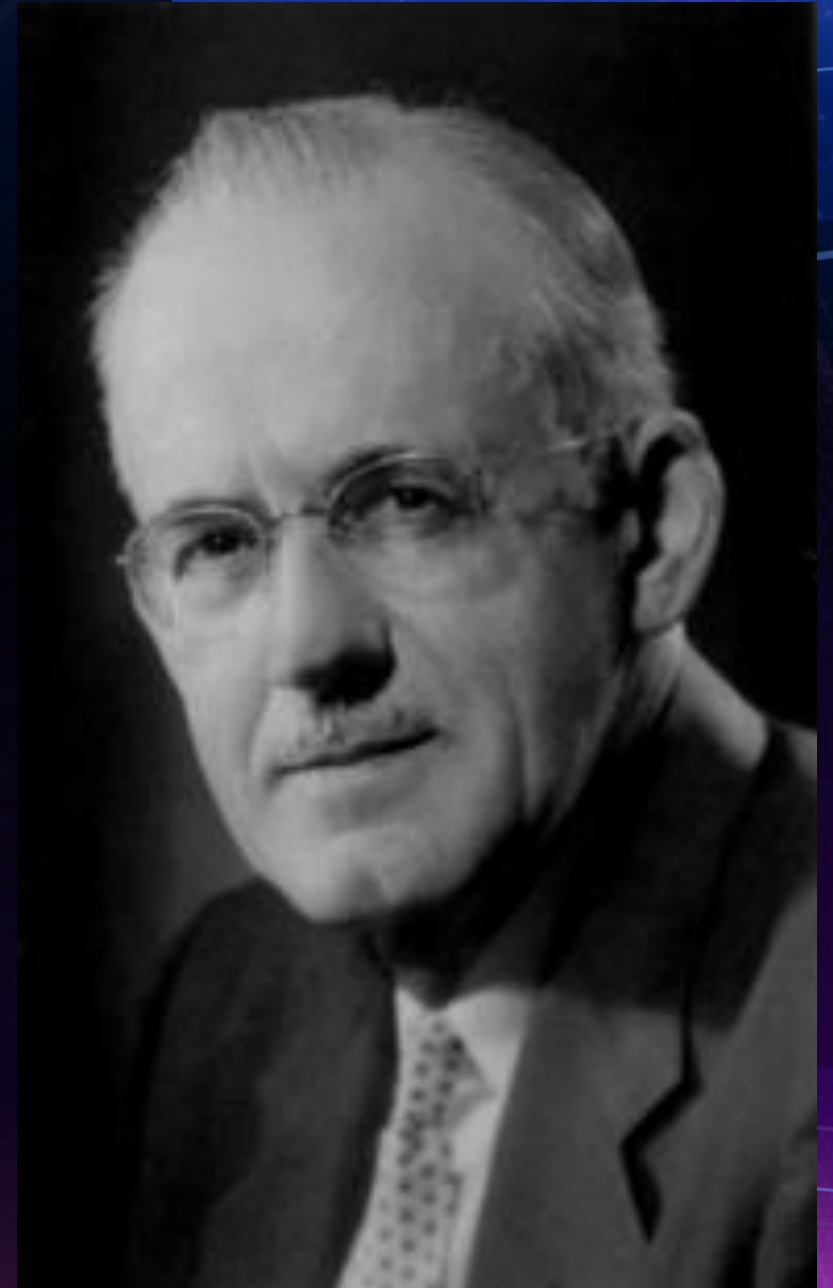
Principles of Good Hermeneutics:

#1 - Rely on the Holy Spirit.

- John 14:26
- The Spirit guides us into all truth.
- The Spirit is our divine commentator.

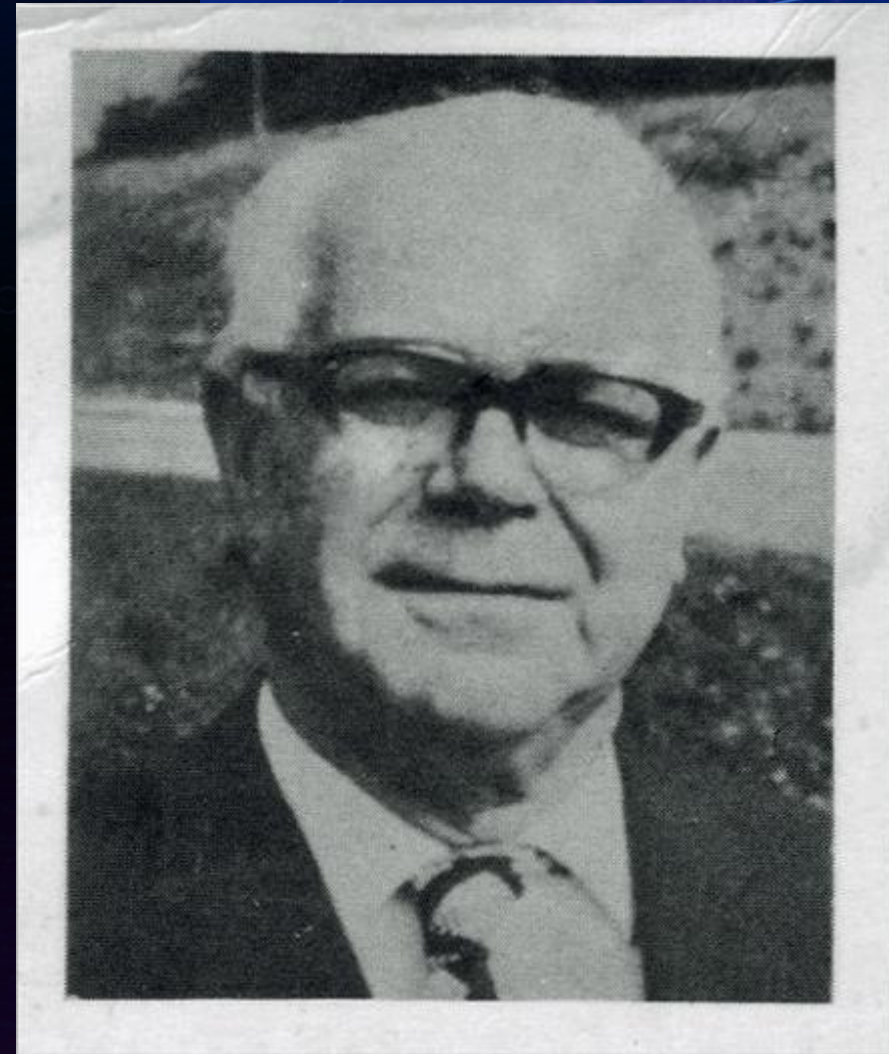
A.W. Tozer, on the Holy Spirit and Bible Interpretation

“The Bible is a supernatural book and can be understood only by supernatural aid.”



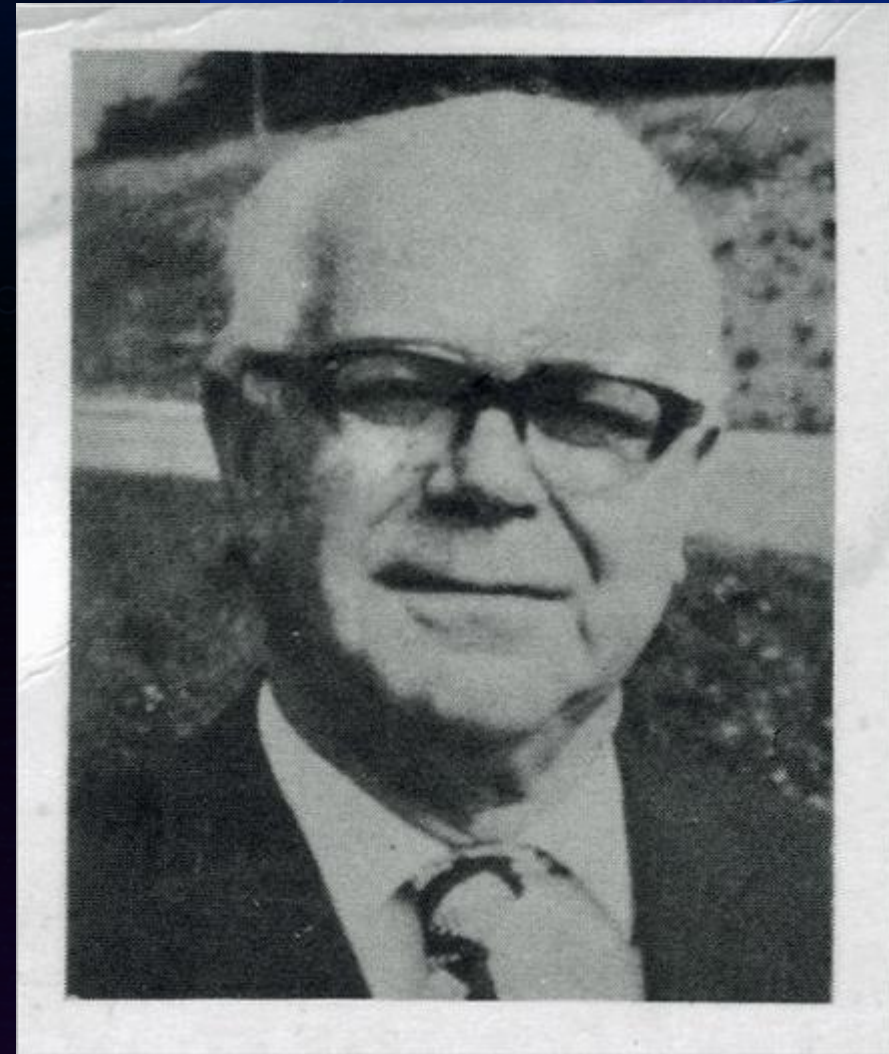
Rene Pache, on the Holy Spirit and Bible Interpretation

“When we read with good natural eyesight the contents of the Holy Book we can discover nothing without the aid of light which comes to us from without and lights the printed page. Similarly when, with the best will in the world we approach the sacred text our ignorance is such that, ...”



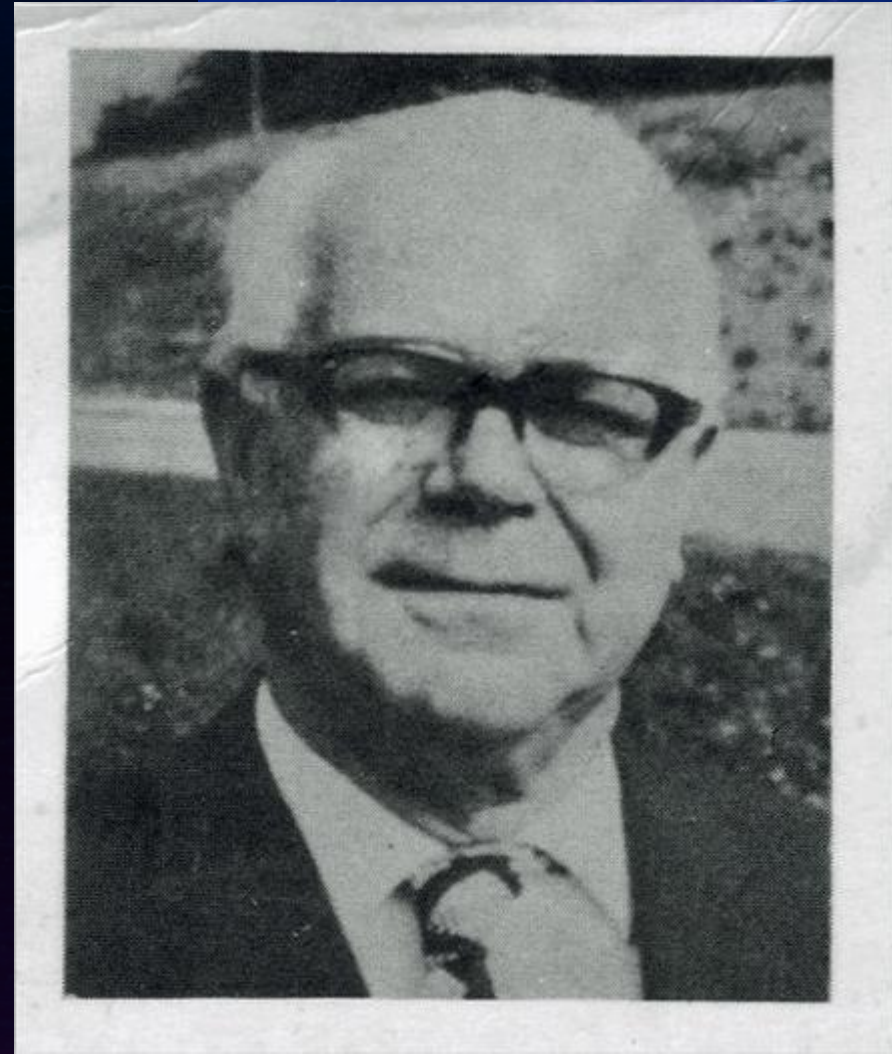
Rene Pache, on the Holy Spirit and Bible Interpretation

“... with the Holy Spirit’s illumination, we should understand nothing. Herein lies the reason why so many unbelievers or people with only a formal religion, have read the Bible and discovered nothing in it. ... Let us, therefore, hold this conviction that is we lack understanding for any wholesome ...”



Rene Pache, on the Holy Spirit and Bible Interpretation

“... truth or any Scriptural passage whose apprehension is necessary to us, the Spirit will grant it to us, in accordance with our needs provided that we humbly accept His tutelage.”



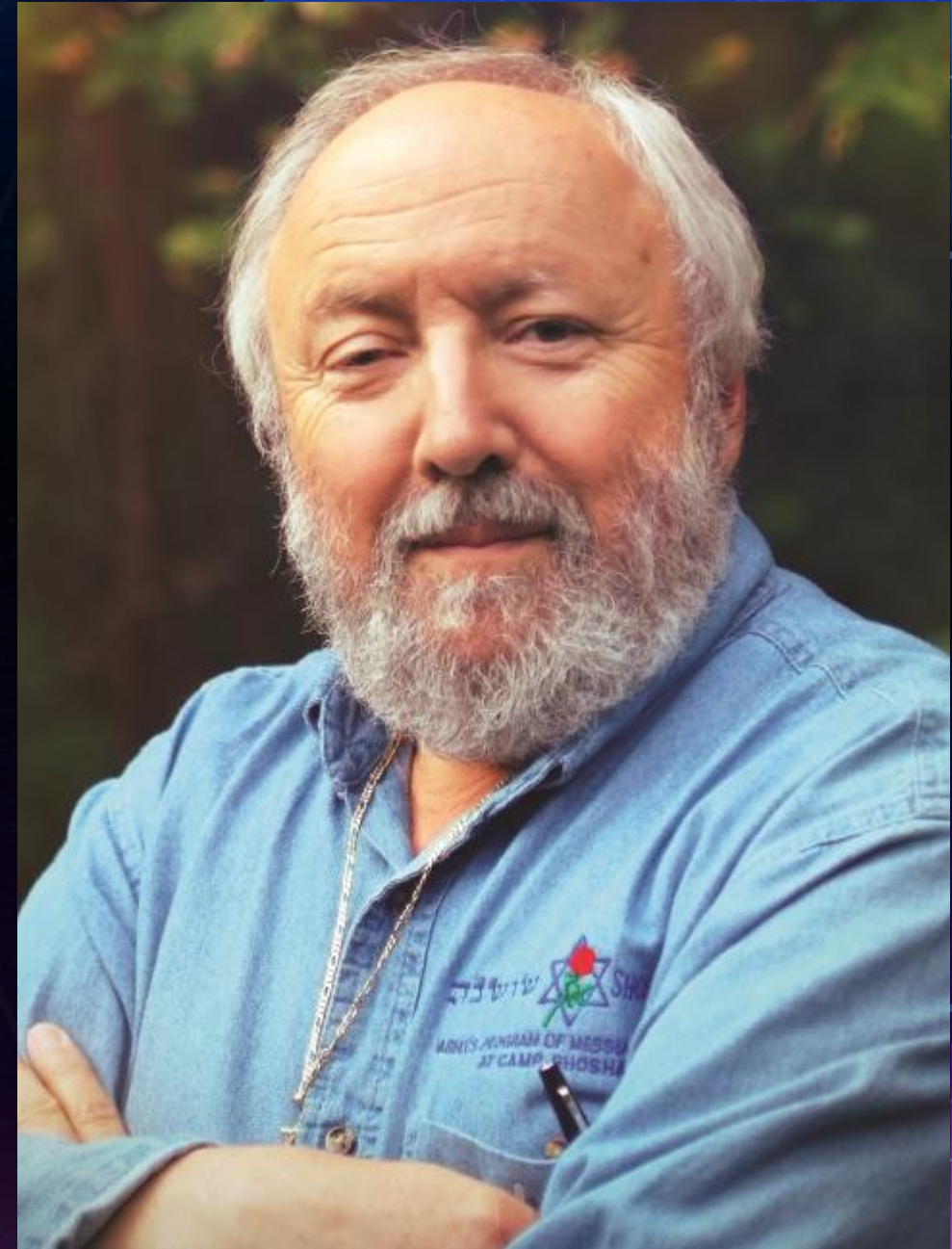
Principles of Good Hermeneutics:

#2 - Begin with literal interpretation.

- “When the plain sense makes sense, seek no other sense.”
- Literalism is our usual practice.

Arnold Fruchtenbaum, On Literal Interpretation

“,When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual literal meaning, unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise.”



Principles of Good Hermeneutics:

#2 - Begin with literal interpretation.

- Literalism helps us from reading into the text (or eisegesis).
- Also called the historical, grammatical method
- Examples –
Ephesians 6:17; James 1:12;
Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 4:12

Principles of Good Hermeneutics:

#3 - Remember the Bible will not contradict itself.

- *Or analogia scriptura*
- Example – Ephesians 1:13-14 with apostasy in Hebrews or homosexuality interpretations with Sodom and Jude 7

James Packer, On the Unity of Scripture

“The Bible appears like a symphony orchestra, with the Holy Ghost as its Toscanini, each instrument has been brought willingly, spontaneously, creatively, to play his notes just as the great conductor desired, though none of them could ever hear the music as a whole...The point of each part becomes fully clear when seen in relation to all the rest.”



J.C. Ryle, On the Unity of Scripture

“I also hold that the words of Scripture were intended to have one definite sense, and that our first object should be to discover that sense, and adhere rigidly to it. I believe that, as a general rule, the words of Scripture intend to have, like all other language, one plain definite meaning, ...”



J.C. Ryle, On the Unity of Scripture

“... and that to say that words do mean a thing, merely because they can be tortured into meaning it, is a most dishonourable and dangerous way of handling Scripture.”



Principles of Good Hermeneutics:

#3 - Remember the Bible will not contradict itself.

- Know the difference between *prescriptive* and *descriptive* texts.