

Syllabus



SATS Short Courses

Basic Hermeneutics: Mining God's Treasures

10 Hours

Welcome to this course entitled *Hermeneutics: Mining God's Treasures*. This reflects our conviction that the Word of God is a spiritual repository of precious metals and gems. God gave us his Word as a gift to reveal himself to us and to guide us through life in his world. However, although the Scriptures were written for us, they were not written to us. They were written as God's messages to his people in the past. If we are to mine those treasures without damaging them, we need to learn to 'rightly handle the word of truth' (2 Tim. 2:15). This course is all about how to do it.

Course Outcomes

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. Apply sound principles of interpretation to handle the Word of God responsibly.
2. Appreciate the importance of using sound principles of Bible interpretation in your life and ministry.

In other words, we hope you will develop two things through this course.

The first is a *skill*—interpreting the Word of God soundly. You will understand the proper goal of interpretation. You will learn the three basic steps that you should follow every time you study a passage. You will learn seven golden rules for using various levels of context well. In short, you will acquire foundational knowledge for interpreting the Bible soundly.

The second is an *attitude*—seeing the value and importance of using sound principles of interpretation when studying or teaching God's Word. You should be concerned when you hear well-intentioned believers disregarding these principles and outraged when you see unscrupulous false teachers completely disregarding them. You should commit yourself before God to rightly handle the Word of truth for the rest of your life and ministry.

Course Outline

This course is divided into three lessons:

1. The Basics of Hermeneutics
2. The Steps in Interpretation
3. The Seven Levels of Context

Course Completion

To Complete the course successfully, you must:

1. Complete each of the three interactive lessons.
2. Achieve at least 80 per cent for the quiz at the end of each interactive lesson.
3. Complete the final forum activity by posting your responses to three questions for reflection.