

Hello. /We will begin the second lecture on biblical hermeneutics. /In our last lecture, we studied that revealed his will through a general revelation. /**General revelation** is the creation of the world, history, and the conscience.

/However, man sinned and denied God's revelation. /Hence, God gave us a **special revelation**. /The general revelation did not fully display the truth of God, the universe, and man.

/Thus, sinners could not know God, the universe, and man through the general revelation alone, and could not achieve salvation. /For example, there are morally good teachings of Confucius and Mencius.

/However, their teachings do not have the truth the redemption of Jesus Christ. /Thus, God gave us the Bible as a special revelation so that man would know the truth of God and the universe, angels and demons, man and sin, and atonement. God allowed man to believe in Jesus and receive salvation.

/Worldly religions that do not accept the Bible, the special revelation, make wrong conclusions about God and man, sin and salvation, and walk down the road of destruction. They do not depend on God's special revelation, and instead they rely on the general revelation and the experiences and knowledge of religious sect leaders.

/Biblical hermeneutics holds the premise that there is a living, Almighty, and personal God. This God revealed his general revelation to man through the creation of the world, history, and the conscience.

/Biblical hermeneutics also holds the premise that God gave man his special revelation, which is the sixty-six books of the Bible. /The special revelation is a revelation that the living, Almighty, and personal God gave man. Therefore, there is the premise that this special revelation makes communication between God and man possible.

/Thus, theologian Graeme Goldsworthy said, "One of the most basic assumptions in evangelical hermeneutics is that God has communicated by his word and that he is certainly capable of doing this in the way that meets his purpose of effective communication."

/This is actually something we experience every day. /When we pray and read God's word with an upright mental attitude, we will receive teachings through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. /We read the Bible and repent of our sins.

/Because I am in ministry, I am moved to teach believers about certain passages in the Bible as I read. /I am moved to "preach on this verse this week." /Thus, we are in communication with God as we read the Bible.

/God gave us human speech and words. God created us so that there would be communication between God and us, and us and others. When this becomes the premise,

biblical interpretation will be conservative and traditional.

/Biblical hermeneutics holds the premise that the living, Almighty, and personal God gave his special revelation to man through human writers. /With this as the premise, we accept the inspiration, inerrancy, and unity of the Bible.

/Take the time to think about the closed system that we previously discussed. /It claims that history is made up of chains of origins and outcomes that cannot be broken, and thus, God's miracles cannot be real.

/Advocates of the closed system do not acknowledge the living, Almighty, and personal God. /Hence, they do not acknowledge the inspiration, inerrancy, or the unity of the Bible. /Because of this premise, if they were to interpret the Bible, the creation and Noah's flood in the Book of Genesis would be myths, and Moses and the Israelites' crossing of the Red Sea would be interpreted as an epic tale of Israel.

/However, conservatives believe in the living and Almighty God, /and they believe that the Bible has the final authority as God does. We also accept biblical inspiration.

/Biblical hermeneutics also pays special attention to the unity of the Bible. /The Bible is God's word, and God's unified will is revealed in Genesis to Revelation by God the single author of the Bible. /Even though there were various human writers, the original author of the Bible is God.

/This unity was shown through Jesus. Let's read John 5:39. /"You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me."

/This means that the message of the entire Bible is united under the grace of redemption through Jesus Christ. /In Luke 24:27, Jesus explained to the two disciples who were on their way to Emmaus all that was said in the Scriptures beginning with Moses and the Prophets.

/The two verses clearly show that the core of the entire Old Testament Bible is the grace of redemption that comes through Jesus Christ. /A simple slogan was made with a few important principles of reformism.

/The slogan was /"Sola Scriptura, /Sola Fide, /Sola Gratia, /and Solus Christus."  
/However, Graeme Goldsworthy, a conservative theologian, spoke about the relationship between "Solus Christus" and hermeneutics. /"The phrase 'Solus Christus' indicates that salvation cannot be found anywhere else other than in the person and ministry of Jesus."

/This assurance is based on evidence of the Bible. /If we truly accept the writings of the Bible, Jesus alone is humanity's only Savior and He is the only way to God.

/Jesus Christ is the interpretational key to the truth. /Christ interprets the truth. /This is

because all things were created in Him. /Let's read Colossians 1:16. /"For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him."

/Therefore, we assert that the person and ministry of Jesus Christ is the foundation of evangelical hermeneutics. /God's ultimate truth of creation and the meaning of the Bible can be interpreted through Christ, the Mediator of God and man.

/Graeme Goldsworthy wrote a book titled, "Christ-Centered Biblical Theology (2012)." /Proper hermeneutics is a Christ-centered interpretation of the Bible, and a discovery of unity within the Bible.

/God gave us the Bible, a special revelation, for the salvation of mankind. Yet, this world is filled with the devil and sin, and humanity has fallen and is filled with sin and corruption. /Therefore, there are correct interpretations of the Bible that come from guidance from God and the Holy Spirit, and there are false interpretations that are influenced by the devil.

/For example, cults falsely interpret the Bible and make their own foundational doctrines. /For example, let's look at one false interpretation of the "Family Federation for World Peace and Unification."

/Let's first read Matthew 27:46. /"About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?'— which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'"

/The "Family Federation for World Peace and Unification" teaches that Jesus' ministry failed. /Jesus failed in His ministry as Messiah, and hence, they claim that another messiah must come. /They claim that the messiah is "Sun Myung Moon."

/What a bizarre interpretation this is! /Cults like this appear because they emphasize certain verses of the Bible but do not consider the unity of such verses with the entire Bible. /Matthew 27:46 is the declaration of Jesus' great victory.

/Jesus meditated on Psalm 22 as He died on the cross. /Psalm 22 begins with, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" /My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? /However, Psalm 22 ends with a great victory.

/Therefore, this was Jesus' praise of God who sent his one and only Son to die on the cross to accomplish salvation of mankind. /Therefore, when we interpret the Bible, we must base it on the unity of the entire Bible and interpret it with Jesus Christ at the center.

**/6. Qualifications of an Interpreter.** /One important factor of biblical hermeneutics is the problem of the qualifications of the interpreter.

/Let's read 1 Corinthians 2:13. /"This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human

wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.”

/God is Spirit and his words are spiritual words. Therefore, we who are of the flesh cannot properly interpret his word. /Therefore, in order for us to properly interpret the Bible, we must have the following qualifications.

/First, we must be **spiritually qualified**. /This means that **one must be born again to interpret the Bible**. /Let’s read John 3:5-7. /Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

/Nicodemus could not believe that Jesus is Savior if he interpreted the Bible on the basis of the tradition and doctrine of the Pharisees. /In order for us to properly interpret the Bible, we must accept Jesus without doubt.

/German female theologian, Eta Linnemann, broke away from historical criticism and new theology. /As an exceptional female theologian, she was a theologian who was acknowledged by ideas of new theology in Germany. /The new theology of Germany denied the miracles of God and only accepted ideas that agreed with science.

/New theology does not believe that Jesus physically resurrected to life. /Before Eta Linnemann believed in Jesus, she unfolded such logic, wrote books and taught students. /She also became a professor at a renowned seminary in Germany.

/However, she became an alcoholic. /Her life became a mess. /Then one day she attended church. /She had fellowship with true believers in the church.

/There she truly believed in the cross and resurrection of Jesus. /She was spiritual born again. /After that, she saw the Bible in a completely different way. /Now, she was able to properly interpret the Bible.

/After her conversion, she wrote a book titled, “Historical Criticism of the Bible.” /She testified that she threw away all books on new theology that she studied from in the past.

/This was an example that showed that those who are born again can properly interpret the Bible. /Those who interpret the Bible **must have zeal to know God’s word**. /They must also have **reverence for God**.

/Gentleness, humility, and patience are virtues necessary to understand the Bible. /These virtues show reverence for God. /An interpreter **must also completely rely on the teachings of the Holy Spirit**.

/There was a biblical scholar who prayed with fasted when he came across a verse in the Bible that was difficult to interpret. /All good biblical scholars prayed and studied. /We must be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in order to properly interpret the Bible.

/These are **spiritual qualifications** of interpreters. /There are also **educational qualifications**. /Interpreters must have certain amounts of general academic and theological knowledge.

/In order to be a pastor in South Korea, one must graduate from a four-year university and complete the Master of Divinity program. /Next, there are **intellectual qualifications**. /One must have a certain amount of intelligence in order to understand and acquire the principles of hermeneutics, and also to understand and acquire linguistic, historical, cultural, and theological knowledge.

**/7. Purpose of Hermeneutics.** /There is a biblical and reformed purpose of biblical hermeneutics. It is, “Properly interpret the Bible, and teach and preach the Bible on that foundation to spiritually influence the lives of the congregation.”

/Augustine claimed that the purpose of interpretation was, “Love God, love man.” /All historical and doctrinal truths of the Bible are aimed at the spiritual success of all believers.

/If we were to seek the purpose of hermeneutics in the Bible, we can refer to 2 Timothy 3:16-17. /“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

/Hence, we must properly learn biblical hermeneutics and properly interpret the Bible, and we must become complete as God’s people and do good works to bear complete fruit.

/Here we will conclude the second lecture on biblical hermeneutics. /Thank you.