**For All It’s Worth:** Let the Holy Spirit Reveal God to You

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| 06.14.15 | Grace | Part 2 | Passage | Main Preaching Point | 35 Min |

**Introduction:**

**Attn:**

**Them:   
Relv:**

**Struct:**

**To Understand God’s Word, Rely on the HS to Reveal the Meaning**

**You’ve heard this called interpretation –** finding the original meaning

* We've all heard the following response when we have tried to share a truth from Scripture - "*Well, that's just your interpretation*!" This retort assumes (wrongly) that there are in fact many valid interpretations. There is one correct interpretation b/c 1 thing was meant – if there were multiple meanings, then it couldn’t stand as truth.
* **Webster defines interpretation as explaining or telling the meaning of something and presenting it in understandable terms**. In Biblical interpretation you are seeking to place yourself in the writer's "sandals", setting aside any preconceived ideas, with the ultimate goal being to understand the writer's original intent, and God's intent which sometimes goes beyond even the the human writer

**A synonym for interpretation is hermeneutics which is derived from the name of the pagan god Hermes who brought messages from the pagan gods to mortals, "translating" them as it were**. The related Greek verb [**hermeneuo**](http://preceptaustin.org/hebrews_71-3.htm#translation) means to bring someone to an understanding of what is conveyed in another language, making it clear and intelligible and thus in a sense "translating" it. **Hermeneutics** is the science (and art) of interpretation, in this case the interpretation of the Bible.

* **It is not just about finding something that is meaningful to us, but it is finding what the true *meaning* of it** is and then finding ways to apply it. For it to be infallible truth, there is one meaning but there can be many different applications.

**Dr. Howard Hendricks** reminds us that...

 "﻿Meaning﻿” (of the Scriptural passage) is not our **subjective** thoughts read into the text but God's **objective** truth read out of the text. As someone has well said, the task of Bible study is to “﻿think God﻿’s thoughts after Him." The miracle is that He used human authors to do so. Working through their personalities, their circumstances, and their concerns, the Holy Spirit superintended the crafting of a document. And each of the human authors—God's coauthors, we might call them—had a specific message in mind as he recorded his portion of the text. That﻿’s why I like to refer to the step of Interpretation as the recreation process. We﻿’re attempting to stand in the author﻿’s shoes and re-create his experience—to think as he thought, to feel as he felt, and to decide as he decided. We﻿’re asking, What did this mean to him? before we ever ask, What does it mean to us?" (Under "Step 2" - The Value of Interpretation - [**Living By the Book**](http://www.wordsearchbible.com/catalog/Living_By_the_Book_1960.html))

* **This is why we study a book like the gospel of John – it takes us back to the original experiences of those who were with our Savior.**
* **I told you when we started John that my prayer was for all of you to fall more in love with JC**. Not the idea of JC. Not the church of C. JC himself. By studying John we are going back and experiencing what he experienced w/ the disciples.
* We should never get sick of hearing about the cross, Christ or his personhood and experiences – never! He is the very core of our entire lives, not just our belief system
* Remember that **interpretation** is the bridge between **observation** and **application**. Accurate interpretation is not only possible but it is crucial lest we inappropriately apply the Bible, acting on what God has said (application) assumes that you understand what He has said.

**A hallmark of the puritan mindset is that they were committed to the renewing of their minds. Why have we lost this?** Why do we value our health over our spiritual status.

 - Behind action are thoughts and affections that are other-than-God

 - “I don’t know what to do with my thoughts.” this is a common cry of our counselees

 - Having a sinful thought is not sinning, it is yielding to it that is sinful

 - Jesus took sinful thoughts and went straight to the Word and dealt with them

 - Having a thought doesn’t mean you sinned, but you have to deal with it correctly

We have many passages that tell us to be renewed by the word and that we are to rewire our minds. This is something that we must do - replacement is a command, but only something we can have through the Holy Spirit working with His Word (Phil 4:8). See also Col 3:2, 3:16, Heb 4:12, 1 Pet. 1:13

Being exposed to sound Bible teaching automatically solves problems. Bible instruction alone will not result in instant solutions to problems. No matter how reliable the teaching or how gifted the teacher, the declaration of truth does not provide the removal of difficulties.

Why are you a Christian: because I believe that anyone that can predict their own death and resurrection - I am with him!

Old Boy's Law: you don't learn anything the second time you're kicked by a mule.

Tell me; I'll forget. Show me; I may remember. But involve me and I'll understand.

Chinese proverb.

Please don't misunderstand. I love God's Word! I am more convinced than ever in my life that its trustworthy truths are of inestimable value. But although the Bible may be a trustworthy book, it is certainly no magic potion that you rub on yourself three times a day to chase the devil away. Nor is it something you take internally with a pious promise to God, hoping that the next morning you will suddenly know and experience all its truths.