

### QUESTIONS

- 1) Why is hermeneutics important as it pertains to the Bible? Why do we even need it in the first place?
- 2) Why was the study of hermeneutics not required to be learned earlier in life in interpreting other literature and life events?
- 3) When do gradual problems with biblical interpretation occur the most?
- 4) What are factors that play a role in the misinterpretation of a biblical text?
- 5) How would you describe the application of a text?

### ANSWERS

- 1) We need hermeneutics because in addition to the bible being a divine book, it is also a human book. Human language is capable of being understood in more than one way.
- 2) Though it was unconsciously, hermeneutics has been taught throughout our whole lives. The basics of general hermeneutics have been learned unconsciously and practiced throughout the course of our lives.
- 3) Issues with biblical interpretation occur the most when a word or phrase is familiar and there is already a specific meaning that is normally attached to that word or phrase. The word itself makes sense in a different context, but people can be misled by their lack of knowledge of the history of the language.
- 4) Some of the factors that cause for the misinterpretation of a text include the differences in language between the author and the reader. Also, if the reader isn't aware of the historical background and audience of the writer, these can be major causes for misinterpretation as well.
- 5) The application of a text of scripture relates to "what the passage means to me".

### TERMS

Hermeneutics: the discipline that deals with principles of interpretation.

Exegesis: The careful, detailed analysis of a text of scripture in referring to its interpretation.

Grammatico-historical: Indicates that this analysis must pay attention both to the language in which the original text was written and to the specific cultural context that gave rise to the text.

### SUMMARY

Hermeneutics is critically important in the study of scripture, as it deals with the interpretation of scripture. One of the reasons why it's so important is because there is always the potential that something could be misinterpreted. Issues can arise when considering the cultural differences between the speaker/writer and hearer/reader. Ultimately, the importance of hermeneutics cannot be overlooked as it's useful in interpreting and finding the meaning in scripture.

