

## Hermeneutics

With an inductive study, rather than answering questions, you will analyze a section of Scripture and try to determine what the author was trying to convey. From this you will be able to outline basic elements of doctrine outlined in Scripture as well as ponder the different points to come up with "*applications*" to your life. This will be accomplished in the following manner. We will attempt to outline the broad scope of what the author had in his mind as he wrote. For example, we would outline the general flow of thought of Paul as he wrote to the Romans. We will use the following steps to accomplish this. Read the entire section over first, then:

### Day #1:

On each line on a piece of paper in a notebook, break the scripture up into paragraphs and write the chapter and verses, which correspond to each paragraph.

Then read each paragraph and write a descriptive title for each paragraph next to its chapter and verse.

Be specific in the paragraph's description, and yet use as few words as possible.

Try to use parallelism as much as possible:

e.g.     1:1-3.    The greeting of Paul  
          4-6.     The thanks of Paul  
                  The concern of Paul

### Day #2:

Re-read the paragraphs and try to see which ones go together to form a thought. Bracket these together and label the section with its major thought. Use parallelism.

### Day #3 or #4:

Finally, re-read the entire section of Scripture and try to see which of the bracketed sections fit together to make a complete thought. Bracket these together and label these. Use parallelism.

### Day #4 or #5:

Going back to a particular section or paragraph, which you think, might be particularly beneficial to you and outline the specific points. From this draw applications to your own life. Make these a topic of prayer to the Lord. On the next page is a short example of an inductive study of 1 Thessalonians.

## I Thessalonians

- 1:2-3 Summary of prayer for Thess.
- 1:4-10 Assurance of Thess. call
- 2:1-6 Circumstances of Paul's preaching
- 2:7-9 Love shared by Apostles: Labor & History of
- 2:10-12 Ministry of Apostles among them: Fruit
- 2:13-16 Response of Thess. to ministry to Christians
- 2:17-20 Desire to see them
- 3:1-5 Timothy sent for encouragement and follow-up.

You will study a couple of messages in the Book of Acts. If you wish, you can use the following break down of the paragraphs to aid you. By the end of the week, you should have Paul's message in Acts 13:16-52 and 26:1-29 broken down and systematized. Spend 3 or 4 days on each message following the pattern laid out above. (Acts 13:16-52 Paul's message to the Jews of Pisidian Antioch)

(Paragraph breaks follow NIV)

- 13:16-20a/13:20b-22
- 13:23-25/13:26-31
- 13:32-35/13:36-37
- 13:38-41
- 13:42,43
- 13:44,45
- 13:46,47
- 13:48
- 13:49-52

What can you learn from this message, which would apply to your life and witness for Christ?

Paul's message before Agrippa:

Acts 26:1-29/26:1-3

26:3-8

26:9-11

26:12-14

26:15

26:16-18

26:19-23

26:24-26:25-27

26:28/26:29

What can you learn from Paul's message to Agrippa, which would apply to your life and witness for Christ?