

Some passages that were very clear a century ago may now be hard to understand. Some passages that previously seemed obscure may give us God's answer in an emerging situation.

It is not the purpose of the Bible to give us full information about everything. There is so much information contained in one body cell that it would take hundreds of books to state it in words. John said that if everything Jesus did had been written down thousands of books would be required.

If the Bible is inerrant, it contains all that is needed to interpret it correctly. The ideas of those who do not believe in inerrancy are more apt to confuse us than to be valid or helpful. To interpret it properly we must recognize its nature and its purpose. What is important is what God has said and what information He desires to bring to our attention at our particular point in time. We must try to keep our own thoughts out of the picture except as suggestions to investigate to determine either that the Bible teaches a certain idea, that it denies this particular idea, or that it is an idea upon which, as far as we can determine, the Bible does not give us information.

Hermeneutics should be defined as the study of methods of discovering the message God desires us to receive from His Word. Ideas from outside may give suggestions, but not conclusions.