



Protestant Biblical Interpretation: A Textbook of Hermeneutics

Bernard Ramm

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Since its publication in 1950, *Protestant Biblical Interpretation* has been a standard introduction to hermeneutics in evangelical colleges and seminaries. Twice revised, this textbook has sold well over 100,000 copies. Now this venerable resource is available in a paperback edition.

"Hermeneutics," writes the author, "is the science and art of Biblical interpretation. . . . As such it forms one of the most important members of the theological sciences. This is especially true for conservative Protestantism, which looks on the Bible as . . . the only authoritative voice of God to man."

After surveying the history of biblical interpretation, the author devotes seventy pages to explicating "the Protestant system of hermeneutics." He then discusses the doctrinal, devotional, and practical uses of the Bible. Following a chapter on the hermeneutical dimension of the problem of biblical inerrancy and secular science, he concludes with chapters on the interpretation of types, prophecy, and parables.

Protestant Biblical Interpretation: A Textbook of Hermeneutics Details

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From Reader Review Protestant Biblical Interpretation: A Textbook of Hermeneutics for online ebook

Douglas Wilson says

Excellent.

Aaron Ventura says

A bit dated but an excellent overview of the general Protestant hermeneutical principles.

Chris Comis says

Very much a scientific historico-grammatical take on hermeneutics. Very little here on biblical typology/symbolism. His survey on the history of hermeneutics was pretty good though.

Simeon Brazzell says

Difficult read, but well worth it if you need an in depth book on proper Bible study

Seth Channell says

Great summary of conservative biblical interpretation. Was helped most by discussion on typology.

Ben Zornes says

Ramm presents here a masterful work outlining how the Protestant tradition of hermeneutics is the most biblically faithful method. Furthermore, he details what that means, namely, taking the text literally in the context of its history and grammar. Just a wonderful book!

Ryan Richetto says

Good historical survey and guidance for interpretation. I didn't expect to like this book as much as I did.

CJ Bowen says

Helpful rulebook for interpretation. Ramm is measured and thoughtful in his prescriptions. His occasional examples are very helpful, but sadly very occasional; assigning a class to find examples of his rules being broken in modern commentaries would be a fantastic exercise, and probably worthy of publication. It would also reassure the timid interpreter that he isn't actually violating a number of rules, and give pause to the incredulous soul who can't imagine how such commonsense rules might be broken by a literate man.

A bit dated now, but overall a solid starting place and overview.

Brenton says

Old but still helpful.

Matt says

Still the best book on Biblical hermeneutics I've read to date.

Gregory says

Good introduction, though a bit dated.

Brock says

1.1 - Hermeneutics

Anthony Edridge says

Bernard Ramm reviews the history of Biblical interpretation at great length, revealing that without guidelines, the Bible can be interpreted to mean whatever anyone chooses. He then examines how the Protestant movement brought reason into the picture, but with reasonable assumptions such as the original texts were inspired by God and without error.

This book provides numerous and comprehensive rules for interpreting scripture. Some are more important than others in normal use, but they are buried in a wealth of technical considerations. But the effort of reading the whole book is worthwhile, because it lays the foundations for these rules within the frameworks of the Bible, philosophy, history, and culture.

I would recommend taking notes and making a list of the more important rules. Specific rules for prophecy and typology, for example, may be referred to if needed.

The topic of Biblical interpretation is quite important today, especially because everyone has a Bible, and few have discovered that rules for interpretation exist. Many pastors are also unaware of such rules, so that poor teaching occurs from time to time. By God's mercy, however, the gospel has not been corrupted among most evangelical churches and some of the larger denominational churches.

Kevin Godinho says

I enjoyed this book more than I thought I would. There are some very interesting cultural truths thrown in throughout the book, which shed light on some Scriptures. Great survey of hermeneutical history and break down of principles.

"Hermeneutics is the science and art of Biblical interpretation. It is a science because it is guided by rules within a system; and it is an art because the application of the rules is by skill, and not by mechanical imitation."

Jason Marianna says

A good first step into hermeneutics. Reading this book will take you from a clueless first timer in the subject, to an astute novice. It's not comprehensive, but it is thorough. Start here, but don't stay here.

And beware of Ramm elsewhere. He'd do well to read his own book and apply it in other subjects.
