

# **Bible Hermeneutics**

**Parables and Proverbs**

**Rule of Emphasis**

**Absolute or Relative**

**Minor Rules**

# Parables and Proverbs

- **Are Sunday School teachers right?**
- **Are parables to help the uneducated?**
- **What does the Bible actually say?**
- **How did the apostles react to them?**
- **Pastors can teach anything with them.**

# Parables and Proverbs

**“These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.”**

**John 16:25**

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**6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.**

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# Parables and Proverbs

**10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?**

**11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.**

**12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.**

**13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.**

**Matthew 13**

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# Parables and Proverbs

- **Parables are hard to understand**
- **Parables are riddles for interpretation**
- **Proverbs are dark sayings and not plain**
- **They are not to make truth easy at all!**
- **Without caution, they can lead to error**

# Identify Context / Intent

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# Identify Context / Intent

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**Proverbs 29:18**

- **This is used for building campaigns!**
- **This is used for forward planning!**
- **But the proverb limits it to revelation!**

# Identify Context / Intent

- **The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37)**
- **Some preach salvation from it!**
- **Their creativity is to be commended!**
- **But they are totally, grossly wrong!**
- **Take this path and there is no map!**

# The Good Samaritan

- **The wounded Jew is not dead sinners!**
- **The Samaritan is not a preacher!**
- **The wine is not the gospel message!**
- **The oil is not the Holy Spirit!**
- **The two pence are not two testaments!**
- **The inn is not a local church!**

# The Good Samaritan

- **What is the lesson's context / intent?**
- **“But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, **And who is my neighbour?**” (10:29)**
- **“Which now of these three, thinkest thou, **was neighbour** unto him that fell among the thieves?” (10:36)**
- **The parable is to define “neighbour”!!!**

# The Prodigal Son

- **A lesson in how to be a good father?**
- **A lesson in dividing the inheritance?**
- **A lesson in restoring church members?**
- **It is primarily to rebuke self-righteous!**
- **It is primarily about the older brother!**
- **Luke 15 rebukes Pharisees (15:2-3)!**

# The Sower

- **A lesson in regeneration - conversion?**
- **Is this a lesson in unconverted elect?**
- **There is no salvation speculation here!**
- **It was to teach apostles how to hear!**
- **Every man can be all four grounds!**
- **Take heed how you hear (Luke 8:18)!**



# The Unjust Steward

- **A difficult, obscure parable!**
- **Not a lesson in financial management!**
- **Not a lesson to catch up to the world!**
- **Not Jesus praising an unjust steward!**
- **The lesson is preparing for the future!**
- **We should exceed the world's children!**

# The Lesson Over Details

- **Details serve the lesson in context!**
- **Leaven can be false doctrine (Mat 16:6)**
- **Leaven can be wickedness (I Cor 5:7-8)**
- **But it can be the kingdom (Matt 13:33)**
- **Kingdom leaven affects all the lump!**
- **The kingdom grew from small to large!**

# Use Proverbs Carefully

**“Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird” (Proverbs 1:17).**

- **Remember, they are dark sayings.**
- **Remember, they need interpretation.**
- **Is a fowler foolish if a bird sees a net?**
- **A bird is stupid for seeing his own trap!**
- **Foolish young men ignore warnings (1:18)**

# Use Proverbs Carefully

**“Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets.”**

**Proverbs 5:16**

- **Water was just used for lawful sex (5:15).**
- **Here the water flows publicly from you.**
- **It is an entirely different water!**
- **This water is your lawful children!**
- **The strange woman cannot give this!**

# Use Proverbs Carefully

**“Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him” (Prov 8:30).**

- **Is this God and Jesus, the eternal Son?**
- **It sounds like it, if you love sounds!**
- **We want the sense of words in context!**
- **This is the figure of personification!**
- **Lady Wisdom was in the beginning!**

# Use Proverbs Carefully

**“Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant” (Prov 9:17).**

- **Are stolen waters truly sweet?**
- **Is stolen bread in secret pleasant?**
- **These are the lying words of a whore!**
- **This is the seduction of fornication!**
- **Despise and reject these lying words!**

# Use Proverbs Carefully

**“There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.”**

**Proverbs 11:24**

- **If you throw away money, does it grow?**
- **What withholding is under consideration?**
- **This is generosity in godly giving!**
- **Only godly scattering will increase!**
- **Ungodly savings or miserliness will fail!**

# Use Proverbs Carefully

**“All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast” (Prov 15:15).**

- **How is the man here afflicted?**
- **Is he a Job that never gets any relief?**
- **The parallelism guides interpretation.**
- **The two clauses are parts of one lesson!**
- **Your attitude can affect your whole life!**



# Use Proverbs Carefully

**“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Prov 20:1).**

- **How does wine mock?**
- **How does strong drink rage?**
- **Drunkenness is condemned here.**
- **This is metonymy of cause for effect.**
- **Excess of either will bring these results.**

# Use Proverbs Carefully

**“The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly” (Prov 20:30).**

- **Are these mere health observations?**
- **Are the stripes a teenager’s six-pack?**
- **Wisdom is here, not *Muscle and Fitness*.**
- **Corporal punishment described two ways.**
- **Proper beating will save the soul from evil.**

# Use Proverbs Carefully

**“Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not” (Prov 29:24).**

- **Who is cursing?**
- **Who is cursed?**
- **What is bewraying?**
- **Who should bewray what?**
- **Helping a thief by not testifying brings doom to your own soul!**

# Proverbs Babel

- **Modern Bible versions corrupt Proverbs**
- **God promised to destroy worldly wise**
- **“Dark sayings” overwhelm their ability**
- **They say they only “updated language”**
- **Their folly is like Pharaoh’s magicians!**

# Proverbs 12:27

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## The MESSAGE

**“A lazy life is an empty life, but ‘early to rise’ gets the job done.”**



# Proverbs 12:27

**“The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.”**

## Contemporary English Version

**“Anyone too lazy to cook will starve, but a hard workers is a valuable treasure.”**

# Proverbs 12:27

**“The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.”**

## New Century Version

**“The lazy catch no food to cook, but a hard worker will have great wealth.”**

# Proverbs 21:28

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**“A false witness shall perish, But the man who hears him will speak endlessly.”**

# Proverbs 21:28

**“A false witness shall perish: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly.”**

## New International Version (#1)

**“A false witness will perish, and whoever listens to him will be destroyed forever.”**

# Proverbs 21:28

**“A false witness shall perish: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly.”**

## New International Version (#2)

**“A false witness will perish, but the words of an obedient man will live on.”**

# Proverbs 21:28

**“A false witness shall perish: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly.”**

## The MESSAGE

**“A lying witness is unconvincing; a person who speaks truth is respected.”**

# Proverbs 18:8

**“The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.”**



# Proverbs 18:8

**“The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.”**

## New King James Version

**“The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body.”**

# Proverbs 18:8

**“The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.”**

## The MESSAGE

**“Listening to gossip is like eating cheap candy; do you really want junk like that in your belly?”**

# Proverbs 18:8

**“The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.”**

## Contemporary English Version

**“There’s nothing so delicious as the taste of gossip! It melts in your mouth.”**

# Proverbs 18:8

**“The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.”**

## New Century Version

**“The words of gossip are like tasty bits of food. People like to gobble them up.”**

# Proverbs Babel

- **Modern Bible versions corrupt Proverbs**
- **God promised to destroy worldly wise**
- **“Dark sayings” overwhelm their ability**
- **Their folly is like Pharaoh’s magicians!**
- **For more such:** <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/proverbs-babel.pdf>

# Rule of Emphasis

- **The Bible may state a clear emphasis.**
- **Some things are more important.**
- **We want God's priorities always.**
- **Some priorities are by clear inspiration.**
- **Learning God's ranking gives wisdom.**

# Rule of Emphasis

- **Private holiness trumps public worship**
- **Mercy in trouble trumps sacrifice**
- **Judgment, mercy, faith trump tithing**
- **Charity exceeds faith and hope**
- **Proverbs is full of priorities by “better”**
- **A Bible study of “better,” “more,” etc.**

# **Rule of Emphasis**

- **The Bible shows priority by emphasis**
- **Observe more extensive treatment**
- **His death and resurrection over birth**
- **Teaching in the church over singing**
- **Obey authority over rebel exceptions**



# Rule of Emphasis

- **Some topics emphasized in one place**
- **Some chapters dedicated to one topic**
- **Do you know Bible enough to go there?**
- **Election and reprobation? Romans 9!**
- **A little test to test your knowledge!**

# **Absolute or Relative**

- **Points emphasized by absolute terms**
- **The Jews against Paul (Acts 17:6; 21:28).**
- **Paul's influence was relatively small**
- **They exaggerated it for a big response**
- **The Bible is absolute truth – even with relative statements!**

# Absolute or Relative

- **Absolute terms may be relative in force**
- **This is neither exaggerating or lying**
- **The lack of modifiers requires study**
- **Luke 14:12-14 forbid family meals?**
- ***Thou shalt not kill* absolute or relative?**

# Absolute or Relative

- **James blasted swearing; Paul swore!**
- **May women wear clothes (I Pet 3:3-4)?**
- **May we ever resist evil (Matt 5:39)?**
- **Jesus condemn planning (Mat 6:31-34)?**
- **Does end justify any means (I Co 9:22)?**

# **Absolute or Relative**

- **Proverbs requires this rule of caution.**
- **General rules with exceptions.**
- **Riches do not always follow diligence.**
- **Some children are incorrigible (De 21).**
- **Diligence works, but always to king?**

# Absolute or Relative

- **Right answer always kissed (Pr 24:26)?**
- **A good word always work (Pr 12:25)?**
- **Universal terms with limits (Acts 2:44).**
- **Universal for many (Matt 3:5; Mk 1:33)?**
- **Universal for all kinds (I Tim 6:10; 2:4).**

# Absolute or Relative

- **Universal negatives allow particular exceptions (Matt 5:34; John 3:32; etc.).**
- **Universal positives allow particular exceptions (Luke 18:1; I Tim 4:17).**
- **Eph 1:22 and Heb 2:8 have all things under Christ, but what of I Cor 15:27?**

# Absolute or Relative

- **Our Arminian opponents love the words “all” and “world,” but they hate the combination (Luke 2:1; Col 1:6)!**
- **They love “not willing that any should perish,” but they ignore “all which he hath given me I should lose nothing”!**



# Proof Text or Reference?

- **A proof text proves a point.**
- **A reference text only refers to it.**
- **Do not try to prove by a reference text.**
- **Each text proves something, but what?**
- **The difference requires previous rules.**

# **God Is Love (I John 4:16)**

- **Proof or reference text? For what?**
- **God is capable of love and does so.**
- **But what or whom does He love?**
- **And for how long?**
- **Is He only love or always love?**

# **God Is Love (I John 4:16)**

- **Does He love you?**
- **Can He also hate?**
- **What or whom might He hate?**
- **The words prove little about His love.**
- **The details are furnished elsewhere.**

# Multiple Witnesses

- **Legal rule of two or three witnesses**
- **Reject doctrine from only one verse**
- **Think baptism for dead (I Cor 15:29)!**
- **Only I John 5:7 for trinity? Think again!**
- **Gen 1:26; Isaiah 48:16; Luke 3:22; John 1:29-34; 14:26; Acts 2:33; II Cor 13:14!**

# Progressive Revelation

- **God reveals more truth over time.**
- **Moses knew God above Abram (Ex 6:3).**
- **O.T. is beggarly shadows in light of N.T.**
- **Paul knew secret things (Eph 3:1-12).**
- **We follow Christ by Paul (I Cor 11:2).**

# Simple Over Complex

- **False teachers use complexity (Co 2:8).**
- **Simplicity is a general rule (II Co 11:3).**
- **If equal alternatives, choose simple.**
- **Harold Camping's number schemes are timely for May 25, 2011!**

# **Bible Hermeneutics**

- **God has taught us much to save us.**
- **Men like Harold Camping have no rules.**
- **Personal qualifications are crucial.**
- **Rules cannot help ignorance of Bible.**
- **Read the Bible every day and learn it.**
- **May God preserve us by His word!**

# **For More Truth Like This**

## **A Complete Outline of Hermeneutics**

<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/scripture/knowning-the-scriptures.pdf>

[www.LetGodBeTrue.com](http://www.LetGodBeTrue.com)