

New Testament Exegesis: A summary of things for the exegete to know and to do (or, as the case may be, to have done).

With regard to the study of a passage:

- the historical background, etc., should have been studied and any notes in the passage helped by such knowledge clearly marked.
- the context of the passage (both near and far) should have been ascertained and it should be seen how the passage under study relates to the context. (If it should be a-contextual, that, too, should be understood).
- The passage should have been studied in the original text including:
 - basic translation (not necessarily for publication so perhaps primitive and literal)
 - identification of all grammatical-syntactical constructions that seem significant
 - study of all key words (words that are suggestive of fuller meaning or words upon which the thought of the passage seems to turn).
 - consultation of various other translations and commentaries to see nothing read in, nothing overlooked.
- The clear teachings of the passage should be summarized in as succinct a fashion as possible and all secondary teachings properly ordered (outlined).
- The thrust of the passage should be studied in the light of other passages giving the same ideas (common utterance) in the light of the principles of hermeneutics.
- the passage should be "checked" to see its place in the total theological frame of reference of the exegete.

With regard to a paper:

All of the above should have been considered and then the following notes on format observed:

- Table of contents
- proper pagination
- verse by verse study (with subordinate materials included if not in a section by themselves)
- footnotes in order
- suggestions (outline) for using passage for public presentation.
- Bibliography

All of which means the exegete should know (have in memory):

- The rules (principles) of hermeneutics
- the basic Greek (Hebrew) constructions
- and a wide enough grasp of over-all Bible knowledge to see the relation of his study to the whole.

And then he should be able to find:

- added information for history, etc.
- ideas and schools of interpretation,
- further help on complicated points of Greek grammar
- sources for checking the accuracy of his work and his result.
(And he should be able to spell---which obviously the editor of this sheet cannot.)