

B. More General Data

1. Grading information:

Readings and reports as assigned	$\frac{1}{4}$
Class participation	$\frac{1}{4}$
Translation (English work)(quizzes)	$\frac{1}{4}$
Final Examination	$\frac{1}{4}$

2. Assignments: detailed on a separate page...with suitable explanation therewith.

3. Class attendance:

Try to make it. If you cannot make a session be sure the work for that section is completed and given to the responsible person (the teacher?) preferably before the class when the work is due. We can live with emergencies, etc., but we want to keep them to something of a minimum.

C. Our hermeneutical understanding

I urge the acceptance of a common hermeneutic that applies to all parts of Scripture on general lines and allows for special hermeneutics with regard to varieties of literature. We do have a course in this subject in the Seminary curriculum and I am not going to repeat the material given in that course at this time but these notes are important for the nature of this study

The single rule of my preference is that of literal interpretation the acceptance of the terms as being truly descriptive of what is enjoined. This is not only a principle for biblical interpretation but is applicable in most literary fields as well. The literal concept may be set aside with a direct statement, an absurdity, or a contradiction, as well as in some cases of an obviously non-literal content. But apart from these a literal rule is what commends itself to my thinking. Remember that a literal principle does not take on the character of letterism and makes full use of all the proper speech figures but always sees these as being consistent with the ideals expressed. In taking a literal line of thought in these proportions, the following are necessary corollaries:

--the words used are best understood in the normal range as known...

--the grammatical-historical approach to linguistic art and form is assumed to be valid.

--background, context data are also necessary for any final consideration.

It follows that this single rule presupposes the following data: