B. Some Basic Notes:

  1. The term (defining)

  2. The divisions (most of which we will ignore!)

  3. Relationship with the other areas of interest

C. Approaching the Bible: the challenge is that of interpreting an older document to newer ages remembering that the Bible is the Word of God and is the declared truth of God to all ages and all classes while recognizing that the immediate statements in context may be directed to a particular situation which may well lend principal at all times but not be marked with specification to all times! Well, I cannot say it more simply and I will try to work it out hermeneutically.

  1. Some Biblical illustrations::

      a. Philip---Acts 8:30ff
      b. The Lord---John 5:39
      c. Paul---Galatians 4:22ff
      d. The Jerusalem Council--Acts 15:13 ff
          It becomes obvious that what is said becomes potent as it is understood. There are many, many more examples

  2. The character of language: You wil often hear someone say that a speaker put "his tongue in his cheek" or "his foot in his mouth." I know a lot about the latter! It is obvious that such language must be understood in something beyond the mere words. The character, then, may be descroibed with the following terms:

      a. Letterism: totality of exactness
      b. Literalism: the terms used define what is meant
      c. Allegorism: The terms have a secondary value that reveals the fuller truth.

          In any given communication all three may be used so... what did Jesus mean when he called Herod a fox Luke 13:32? Observations of language usage are especially important in prophecy and typology

  3. Attempts at understanding in the earlier days of Christianity with influences in the current church