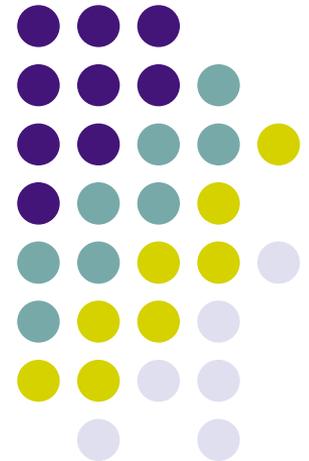
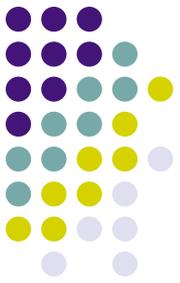


HERMENEUTICS:

The Rules of Biblical
Interpretation

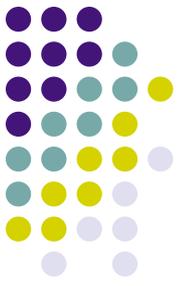


History of Interpretation...

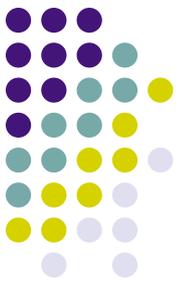


- “A historical overview...will enable us to overcome the temptation to believe that our system of interpretation is the only system that has ever existed. An understanding of the presuppositions of other methods provides a more balanced perspective and a capacity for more meaningful dialogue with those who believe differently. By observing the practices of those who have preceded us, we can identify their successes and be more aware of possible dangers when we are ourselves are tempted.” (Virkler)
- “Understanding how individuals and groups have interpreted the Bible in the past can serve as signs to us, giving us warnings, direction, and information” (Zuck).
- “Like a warning signal, studying the history of Bible interpretation can help us see the errors of others in the past and the consequences of those errors, thus alerting us to guard against repeating them.” (Zuck)
- “A knowledge of the history of biblical interpretation is of inestimable value to the student of the Holy Scriptures. It serves to guard against errors and exhibits the activity and efforts of the human mind in its search after truth and in relation to noblest themes. It shows what influences have led to the misunderstanding of God’s word, and how acute minds, carried away by a misconception of the nature of the Bible, have sought mystic and manifold meanings in its content.” (Milton Terry)

Distinctions through history...

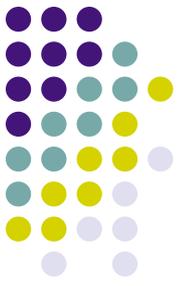


1. Allegorical-Greek, Jewish, Patristic, Catholic
2. Literal
3. Devotional
4. Liberal
5. Neo-orthodoxy



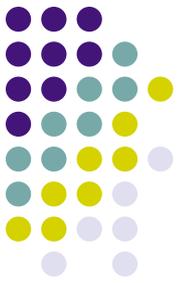
Process...Observation

- Reading the biblical text
 - From 30K feet and zeroing in...
 - OT: Law (Torah), Prophets (former, latter), Writings
 - NT: Historical bks, Epistles (Paul or non-Pauline), Apocalypse
 - Bible bk as a whole, divisions, sections, segments (chts), paragraphs, sentences (verses), clauses, phrases, words
 - Read w/ intent...
- Studying its Context
 - Purpose: reason for the bk being written
 - Themes: terms, people, places, events, ideas repeated
 - Literary structure



Process...Interpretation

- Determining meaning by using Historical-Grammatical Method
 - History:
 - Historical **events** (“what”?)
 - Historical **chronology** (“when”?)
 - Historical **geography** (“where”?)
 - Historical **culture** (“why”?)
 - Grammar:
 - Lexicology-components of language
 - Syntax-sentence structure
 - Genre-type or category of literary composition



Process...Application

- Relating meaning to present life
- Reading w/ your SPECS:
 - Sins to confess
 - Promises to claim
 - Errors to avoid
 - Commands to obey
 - Stumbling blocks to avoid