



*Nature
of the*
CHAPEL

Session #1: Our Core Beliefs

I. Introduction: Who Are We?



Nature of the Church (from the Chapel Constitution).

Believing that the Church of Jesus Christ is One Church and is One Body whose Head is Jesus Christ, this church is pledged to work with all who love the Lord Jesus and look for His appearance. To this end *The Williamsburg Community Chapel shall be constituted as an interdenominational church* wherein all of those who love Jesus Christ and desire to serve Him may join in one common effort.

I. Introduction: Who Are We?

- **Non-denominational v. Interdenominational**

“It is easier to move to a consistent theological extreme than to stay at the center of biblical tension.” — *Dick Woodward*

**“In the essentials, unity; in the non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”
— *Rupertus Meldenius (17th c.)***

I. Introduction: Who Are We?

- We want to “celebrate our unity amidst our diversity.”
- Ephesians 4:1-6
- John 17:21



II. Defining Our Core Beliefs

- **Chapel Statement of Faith
(wcchapel.org/statementoffaith)**



Chapel Statement of Faith ... “We believe ...”

- **In one God manifest in three Persons - The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit.**
- **In the inspiration of all the Scriptures by the Holy Spirit, and that they are the final authority for our faith and practice.**
- **In the creation of the human race in God’s image as immortal, morally responsible beings whose purpose is to serve and glorify God. Mankind chose rather to serve self-interest and thus all have sinned, creating the need for individual reconciliation to God.**

Chapel Statement of Faith ... “We believe ...”

- **In the Incarnation and Virgin Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ who, by His shed blood, substitutionary death, and bodily Resurrection, paid the redemptive price for our sins.**
- **In the salvation of all whom trust the Lord Jesus Christ and the just condemnation of all who reject Him.**
- **In the work of God’s Spirit in the new birth, indwelling the believer, enabling him to grow in the likeness of Christ, and filling him with power to live a life committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.**

Chapel Statement of Faith ... “We believe ...”

- **In the union of all believers as one body in Christ.**
- **In the bodily Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to claim His own people and to set all things in order.**



II. Defining Our Core Beliefs

- **Chapel Statement of Faith**
- **Member's Covenant**



III. Determining Our Core Beliefs

- Matters of *biblical authority* v. *biblical interpretation*
- “Essentials” v. “Non-essentials”

**“We are firm where the Bible is firm
and flexible where the Bible is flexible”
— *Watermark Community Church,
Dallas, TX***

Diversity of Perspectives in the Bible

- **Genesis 1 AND Genesis 2**
- **Exodus 20 AND Deuteronomy 5**
- **1 & 2 Kings AND 1 & 2 Chronicles**
- **4 gospels**
- **1 Corinthians 7:25; Acts 15:19**

**Accept the one whose faith is weak,
without quarreling over disputable
matters.**

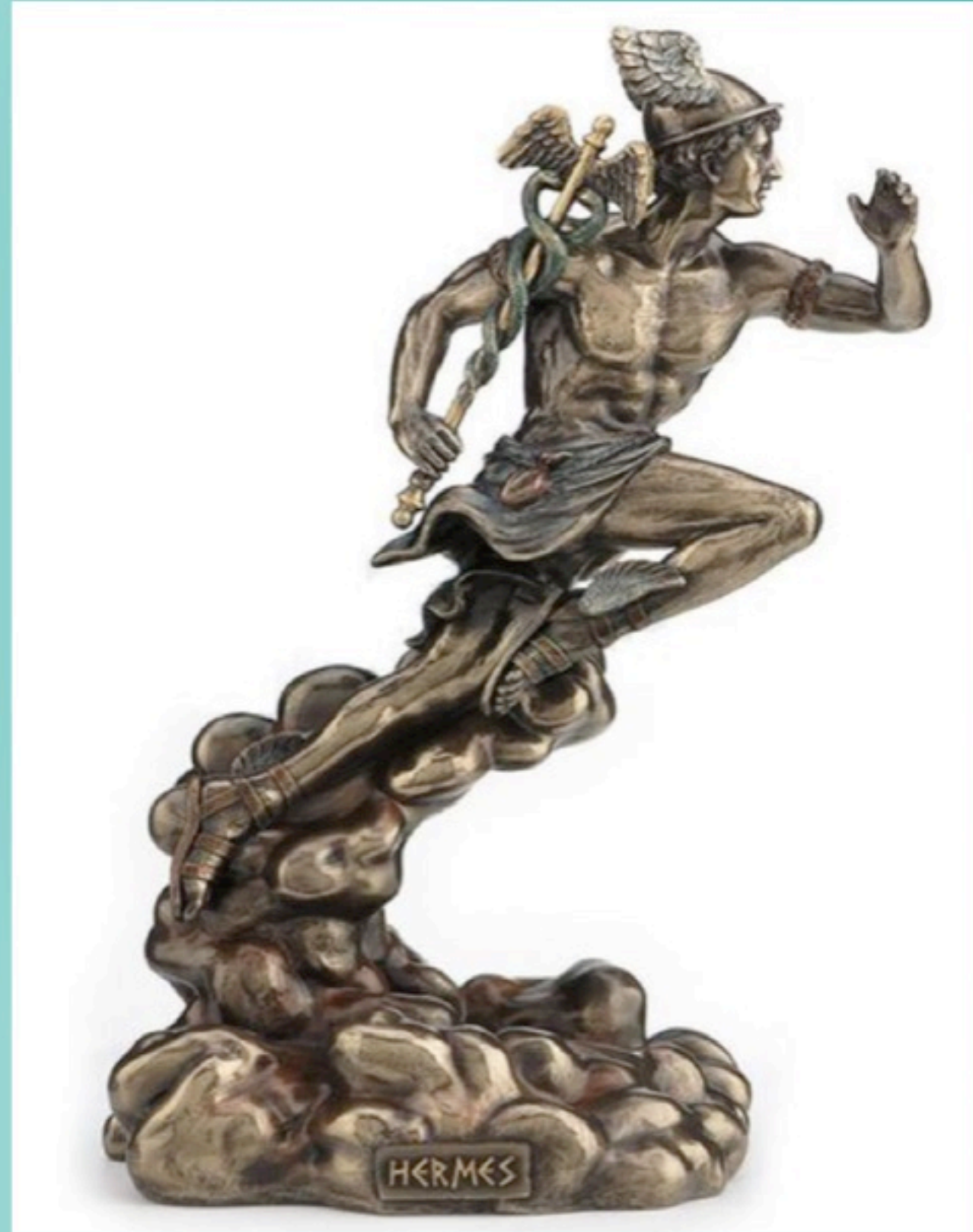
— *Romans 14:1 (NIV)*

Basic principles of Bible Study: Hermeneutics

- **Hermeneuo (Greek) = "to translate/interpret"**



Basic principles of Bible Study: Hermeneutics



Hermes
The messenger god
(or “interpreter”) of
ancient Greek
mythology.

Basic principles of Bible Study: Hermeneutics

- Hermeneuo (Greek) = "to translate/interpret"
- Hermeneutics is the discipline of *interpreting the meaning* of the biblical text.
- It is also an exercise in *communication* across history.
- It involves a few steps, but all steps involve *asking questions* of the text.



Question #1: What did it mean then? (Exegesis)

- **Content (words, meaning)**
- **Context (history, culture, literature, purpose)**
- **Consult (resources)**
- **Common Sense**
- **Community**



Question #2: What does it mean today? (Application)

- ***Is there an example to follow?***
- ***Is there a command to obey?***
- ***Is there a sin to avoid?***
- ***Is there a promise to claim?***
- **The challenge lies in determining what is *prescriptive* versus what is *descriptive*.**

Hermeneutical Principles

1. Many situations and commands *still apply today.*
2. Some situations and commands *do not apply today.*



Hermeneutical Principles

“All Scripture should be received as normative for every person in all societies of all time unless the Bible itself limited the audience ... When the Bible clearly gives a command and nowhere else nullifies that command, it must be accepted as the revealed will of God and a mandate to mold our personal and group behavior in the form of this instruction.”

— *J. Robertson McQuilkin*

Hermeneutical Principles

- 1. Many situations and commands *still apply today.***
- 2. Some situations and commands *do not apply today.***
- 3. Some situations and commands do not apply today, *but the principles do.***
- 4. The best commentary of the Bible is the Bible.**



Hermeneutical Principles

“The more you compare Scripture with Scripture, the more the meaning of the Bible becomes apparent. The parts take on meaning in light of the whole ... although we have about forty different human authors, the sixty-six books are ultimately the result of one primary Author, the Holy Spirit, who coordinated the entire message. His Book is integrated. It hangs together.”

— Howard Hendricks, *Living by the Book*

Hermeneutical Principles

- 1. Many situations and commands *still apply today.***
- 2. Some situations and commands *do not apply today.***
- 3. Some situations and commands do not apply today, *but the principles do.***
- 4. The best commentary of the Bible is the Bible.**
- 5. Hunger, humility, and the Holy Spirit**
- 6. The discipline of Bible study is not just informational *but transformational.***



Hermeneutical Principles

“The goal of Bible study is not simply to determine what it says and what it means, but rather to apply it to one's life. If we fail to apply the Scriptures, we cut short the entire process and have not finished what God wants us to do ... heart appropriation, not merely head apprehension, is the true goal of Bible study. Only in this way can believers grow spiritually.”

— Roy B. Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation*

Panel Discussion

Travis Simone — Elder, Lead Pastor

Rich Sylvester — Associate Pastor

Hunter Ruch — Associate Pastor

Claude Marshall — Associate Pastor

Wes White — Missions Pastor

Laurel Henshaw — Ministry Leader

Dr. Bina Fenn — Deacon

Gary Bruce — Elder



Questions & Feedback

Text: 757-295-8280

Email: natureofthechapel@wcchapel.org

