

# Questions About the Differences Between Hermeneutics and Homiletics

By Pastor Ed Anderson

What's the difference between hermeneutics and homiletics?

## Answer:

Great question! These two terms—**hermeneutics** and **homiletics**—are both essential in understanding and communicating the Bible, but they serve **very different roles**:

**Hermeneutics = Interpretation**

## Definition:

**Hermeneutics** is the science and method of **interpreting Scripture**. It answers the question:

“What does the Bible mean?”

## Focus:

- Understanding **context, culture, language, and genre**
- Interpreting **biblical texts accurately**
- Avoiding **misinterpretation or distortion**
- Applying principles like:
  - *Scripture interprets Scripture*
  - *Literal vs. symbolic meaning*
  - *Historical and grammatical analysis*

## Example:

When reading Revelation, hermeneutics helps you know that a “beast” may not be a literal animal but a symbol (Daniel 7:23 helps interpret that).

**Homiletics = Preaching**

**Definition:** Homiletics is the art and method of **preparing and delivering sermons**. It answers the question:

**“How do I proclaim what the Bible says?”**






**Focus:**

- Structuring a message
- Creating a clear introduction, body, and conclusion
- Applying Scripture to real life
- Using illustrations, transitions, and calls to action
- Connecting emotionally and spiritually with the audience

**Example:**

Once you interpret Revelation 13 correctly using hermeneutics, homiletics helps you preach it powerfully so the church understands its relevance today.

### Hermeneutics vs. Homiletics Summary

Aspect	Hermeneutics	Homiletics
 Purpose	Interpreting the Bible	Preaching the Bible
 Focus	Understanding meaning	Communicating message
 Question	“What does the text mean?”	“How do I share this truth effectively?”
 Discipline	Theological and scholarly	Practical and pastoral
 Tools	Greek/Hebrew, context, grammar, culture	Sermon structure, delivery, illustrations

### Final Thought

Both are **vital** for faithful ministry:

- **Hermeneutics** ensures you’re preaching **truth**.
- **Homiletics** ensures you’re preaching **well**.

“ A sermon without hermeneutics may be inspirational—but false.  
A sermon without homiletics may be accurate—but boring.

But together, they unleash **truth that transforms.** ”