

**POSTMODERNISM'S IMPACT UPON EVANGELICAL AND JUDICIAL
HERMENEUTICS**

- I. Traditional hermeneutics
 - A. Biblical interpretation
 - 1. Literal, grammatical, historical method
 - a. Literal
 - b. Grammatical
 - c. Historical
 - 2. Philosophy
 - a. Four dangers if not consistently applied
 - 1. Authority transfers from the text to the interpreter
 - 2. Scripture is not being interpreted
 - 3. No basis for testing the conclusions of the interpreter
 - 4. No mechanism for controlling the interpreter's imagination
 - b. Goal: dethrone the interpreter
 - B. Legal interpretation
 - 1. Literal, grammatical, historical method
 - a. Literal, grammatical
 - b. Historical
 - 2. Goal: dethrone the interpreter
- II. Modern hermeneutical trends in evangelical and constitutional interpretation
 - A. Authority is transferred from text to interpreter
 - B. Interpreter's biases render authorial intent unknowable
 - C. Movement away from studying original sources
 - D. Texts are not static
 - E. An overemphasis upon studying background literature in order to determine a text's meaning