

1 - THE BIBLE IS REVELATION

- a. The Bible is meant to be understood
- b. The Bible is meant to be understood by those to whom it was addressed.
- c. The Bible is not a secret codebook
- d. The interpretation of a text, therefore, should not be novel or "radically new".

2 - THE BIBLE INTERPRETS ITSELF

- a. Biblical writers advance previous revelation, but do not contradict it. So, all of the Bible builds on itself.
- b. Later Scripture is generally more clear than earlier. The NT reveals the meaning and intent of the OT.
- c. Let a clear Scripture interpret an unclear one. If the Book of Revelation is the summary and integration of the OT prophecies, then start with clear NT, nail down certain ideas, and go from there.
- d. The Scriptures are not to be interpreted by events around you. Don't let the headlines, natural events, or your own feelings interpret the Bible.
 - Many Christians in time of great revivals have become postmillenials
 - Many Christians in times of distress are persuaded the Great Tribulation is near.

3 - THE PRIORITY IN THE BIBLE IS THE CHURCH - NOT OT ISRAEL

- a. Ephesians 2:14-22
 - (vs. 16, 18) believing Jews and believing Gentiles are one body
 - (vs. 21-22) both, together, are the Temple of God
 - (vs. 20) the foundation is Christ and the apostles (Christ's and the apostles' teaching in the NT)
- b. Revelation 21:14 - the eternal state is the same, only perfected.
- c. When you hear about something other than the church as the focus, know that the emphasis is wrong to begin with.

The Enlightenment - principles of interpretation

- 1) The same scientific method used in other disciplines can be used for the Bible
- 2). Interpretation is methodical
- 3). Results can be guaranteed if followed (reliance on reason means less on Holy Spirit)
- 4). Bible must be understood in the historical context of the time the particular book was written.
- 5). Results:
 - Reliance on method over HS
 - Biblicism: no prior commitment to any theology. Individual books of the Bible had their own context and history.
 - Less understanding of the supernatural theme of the Bible

Biblical Ideas:

- 1). Bible is a work of the Spirit who reveals supernatural things
- 2). The Bible's main context is the Bible.
- 3). The test of a meaning is not what the audience understood (i.e. historical context) but what they should have known based on previous revelation and God's character.
- 4). If the Bible's main theme is redemption - and thus the OT is about Messiah - then we should expect to find Messiah.

Difficulties explained: - the Bible is a supernatural revelation

- 1). Lesser to greater (Heb. 1:5b)
- 2). Look for God to reveal in the unusual (Gen 22, Jn 8:56; Heb. 11:17-19)
- 3). The unfulfilled. (Psalm 2, Heb 1:5a)