

# Dispensationalism: The Hermeneutics

Based upon the book: "Dispensationalism" by Charles C. Ryrie

# The Hermeneutics of Dispensationalism

- Recent Developments
- Different Viewpoints
- The Results of Literal Interpretation
- The Unifying Principle of the Bible

# The Hermeneutics of Dispensationalism

Recent Developments

1. Linguistics (+/-)
2. Literary approach to Scripture (+/-)
3. Preunderstanding/presuppositions
  1. Theological
  2. Personal
  3. Cultural

# The Hermeneutics of Dispensationalism

The Different Viewpoints

## Dispensational Position

- Literal Hermeneutics (pg. 80)
  - Grammatical-historical
  - Normal
  - Plain

# The Hermeneutics of Dispensationalism

The Different Viewpoints

## Dispensational Position

- Reasons for Literal Hermeneutics
  - God created language to communicate with us
  - Bible prophecies about Christ's first coming were fulfilled literally
  - Without literal interpretation, there is no objectivity (elaborate on subjective interpretation)

# The Hermeneutics of Dispensationalism

The Different Viewpoints

## Dispensational Position

Literal interpretation is used by folks who are non-dispensational but

- The difference is *Consistency*
  - Word Studies
  - Grammar
  - Context

Amillennialists will often spiritualize or interpret Scripture figuratively to maintain the blur that they have between Israel and the church.

# The Hermeneutics of Dispensationalism

## The Different Viewpoints

### NonDispensational Position

- Interpretation of prophecy
  - Figurative "spiritual"
- The use of Old Testament in the New
- The presupposition of the covenant of grace
  1. Is the covenant of grace stated in Scripture?
  2. Even if it is, should it be the controlling presupposition of hermeneutics and theology?
  3. Even if there is a unity of redeemed peoples, does that remove disunities in God's program for His creations?

# The Hermeneutics of Dispensationalism

The Different Viewpoints

## The Progressive Dispensational Position

- Discontinuity with normative dispensationalism
  - Progressives seek to find common ground with the covenantalists
  - They call this complementary hermeneutics

# The Hermeneutics of Dispensationalism

The Results of Literal Interpretation

Literal interpretation results in accepting the text of Scripture at its face value.

# The Hermeneutics of Dispensationalism

The Unifying principle of the Bible

Dispensationalists are accused of compartmentalizing the Bible to the hazard of its unity. This is a straw man argument as we recognize a unifying principle that holds true through all dispensations and is magnified in the end.

# The Hermeneutics of Dispensationalism

Review

- Recent Developments
  1. Linguistics (+/-)
  2. Literary approach to Scripture (+/-)
  3. Preunderstanding/presuppositions
    1. Theological
    2. Personal
    3. Cultural
- Different Viewpoints
  - Dispensational Position
  - Nondispensational Position
  - Progressive Dispensational Position
- The Results of Literal Interpretation
- The Unifying Principle of the Bible

# The Dispensations

Review

Homework:

- Read the 5th chapter:
  - 3 Questions, 3 observations, 3 Applications
- After reading the chapter, write a short paper that includes your thoughts about the sermon on the mount.
- Have a working knowledge of the information on the **next slide**

# The Dispensations

## Rules of Interpretation

1. Context is all important in defining words and interpreting passages.
2. Clear passages must interpret the less clear.
3. Scripture must be compared with Scripture
4. The literal sense of Scripture must rule.
5. The Bible must be allowed to define its own figurative language.
6. Parables do not define doctrine, but illustrate doctrine.
7. God's revelation to man in the Scriptures is progressive in nature.
8. The Gospels and Acts are transitional.
9. Paul is the apostle to the Gentiles.
10. The Bible must be studied dispensationally.
11. Old Testament parallelism must be understood.
12. If two or more interpretations are supported by the passage, both might be correct.
13. What the Bible does not say is as important as what it does say.
14. Caution and careful study solve most problems.

(How to Study the Bible" David Cloud pg. 54)