

*Hermeneutics, the
Science of Biblical
Interpretation.*

Don't let the word "hermeneutics" scare you as it is only a word used to collect from the Bible and describe the principles that the Bible itself lays down for proper Bible understanding. {Hopefully you do recall that the last 3 newsletters, including this one has been on UNDERSTANDING BIBLE and primarily from I Corinthians. Already you have been exposed to 3 of these principles of Bible interpretation¹:

7c-1: You could easily have not seen in the last 2 sessions, the first of skill in Bible understanding and the second on the demonic veil of the rapture, that we were in reality head over heels into what is truly

1. See the marvelous book by Bernard Ramm, once at Baylor like Ray Summers and McDowell at Southern Seminary until the Bible baptists fundamentalists ran them off, called THE SCIENCE OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION, Increasingly because of the influence and control of this kind of baptists over the SBC and Lifeway bookstores, you will have trouble finding a copy of any of Ramm's books, like for Summers and McDowell on the book of Revelation.

required to see the only possible understanding of the BIBLE in the ASPI.

1. any natural person born on this earth can not expect to understand the Bible¹ without an internal experience with the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16,17) whereby both the power of God, rightness of God, and initial spiritual understanding has been imparted--

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world², but the spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given us of God." (I Corinthians 2:12)

2. also groups of Christians with a bad attitude have trouble with the Bible also, like fundamentalists and pentecostals. Their problem of interpretations on the deeper things of God, like in last things and tongues, is still as old as what might be considered the bottom line of I Corinthians on Bible understanding--

"Or did the Word of God come from you originally, or was it you only that it reached?" (I Corinthians 14:36)³

NOTE: The fundamentalistic Bible baptists act like they originated the theology of eschatology, and to a certain extent with their false "rapture", "millennium", and Scofield Notes, they did. Likewise pentecostals think they invented tongues, healing, and the so-called "getting the spirit" and to a certain extent they did invent it. You must read online at biblecom-bibleman, the messages/teachings on Prophecy versus Tongues.

3. A Christian does not have to be the member of a bad attitude group in order to have a personal bad attitude that prevents Bible understanding. You per-

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1. it is a closed book to him, quite often seeming like foolishness. He does not have the awe and respect for it as Word of God and words from God that those IN CHRIST have.
 2. Some pastors, priests, and Bible scholars and students still struggle on the inside with a "spirit of the world" dominance even after conversion, sometimes outright become externally dominated by the established spirit of the world: these are going to have trouble with Bible understanding in spite of education and degrees. You see, the Bible is just not like any other book that can be studied, both the way it was written and the way its truth is comprehended.
 3. Another way to say DID THE WORD OF GOD COME OUT OF YOUR CHURCH AND OUT OF YOUR GROUP, OR DID IT COME TO YOU ONLY?

haps did not notice that when from II Timothy 4:4,5 we mentioned church members motivated by their own wants and desires, that this is the same bad attitude that they come to any sound doctrine of the Bible; and the more positive of such an approach to Bible, that of sound Bible hermeneutics, is A WILLINGNESS AND MOTIVATION TO DO THE WILL OF GOD AS DISCOVERED IN THE BIBLE--

“if anyone will do the will of God, he will know of the doctrine, if it be of God.”

NOTE: If you heart in the sight of God in not right about the truth you are reading, you will not understand. For example if while you are in your church shaking your fist in the face of God on divorce and the rest of his ordained plan for marriage, as are well over 51 percent of church members, that is a lack of willingness to understand the will of God. It leads to isogesis in Bible study which is a coming to the Bible with preconceived ideas and striving to read that meaning into the Bible, contrasted to exegesis which is reading out the original meaning.¹

7c-2: The God ordained principle of Bible interpretation {understanding} that we come to in this third session on “Skill in Bible Understanding” is to COMPARE SCRIPTURE WITH SCRIPTURE.

The very reason that pastors, preachers, and other serious students of the Bible have the advantage over other church members is that they have more scripture in their heart and mind to compare with other scripture. And you know it is as much the spiritual quality of long hours of Bible study as it is the total time spent on study and meditation.²

While studying Bible as once taught by conservatives **{not the same as the fundamentalists of a Bible baptist background}** at Ouachita, Baylor, and South-

1. See on biblbecombibleman.com THE ASPI FOR Authorized Semi-Public Interpretation of the Bible based on II Peter 1:20,21.

2. Many students come to Seminary with a BA and little previous Bible, many never get the hang of spiritual understanding because of lack of practise of one or more principles of interpretation, and some ThDs and PhDs like in the Jesus Seminar never make contact with the spiritual content.

western Seminary, there was a corollary of the principle of comparing scripture with scripture that was uttered by these profs quite naturally, "Just let the Bible says what it wants to say, " or "Just let the Bible say what it is going to say." You see how your long hours of meditation and Bible study during which you mind and spirit automatically associates everything you have learned up to that point in Bible study with your new studies and meditation, alias comparing scripture with scripture, assist you in a natural-spirit bent toward exegeis of Bible over isogesis. Perhaps another way to say it is, if you have spent already hours of spirit led, and other good hemeneutical practices, you are more likely to see the obvious interpretation {ASPI per II Peter 1:20,21}¹ of new illuminations from new readings.

7c-3: The best way to illustrate what has been said on Bible understanding or hermeneutics during this first 3 sessions on I Corinthians is by example. Come with me as we in one morning meditational period read through I Corinthians, seeking pointed illuminations and looking also for the DAY OF THE LORD AND Lord. {Those on that great and notable day of the LORD and Lord, were mentioned at the end of session 7b.}

1. Reading #1, I Corinthians 1:2a: "the church of God which is at Corinth" would prevent a lot of confusion about local churches and the one assembly of all Christians of all time, the church of the firstborn written in heaven (Hebrews 12:23). That is comparing scripture with scripture, we can read 1:2a as "the general assembly² of the firstborn, written in heaven, which presently on earth is located at Corinth or the FBC at the corner of such and such!" You can see this total assembly, or body, of Christ--at least the part that is still alive and here on earth, having not gone already to the assembly in heaven, with the written words of 1:2c, "with all who in every place {still on the earth} call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ our Lord"; and the final addition at the end of the verse of "both theirs and ours". What to a great extent makes a

1. See the subject of ASPI, that is the Authorized Semi-Public Interpretation, from the goggle sister web site of www.biblecomibleman. It has the address of www.sungristbible.aspx.

2. You know, hopefully, that from the approximately 128 times the word "ecclesia" for church or assembly is used in the NT, most of those are the local church but about 20 are for the total assembly at that point in history body of Christ.

local church part of that general assembly still on earth is where Jesus Christ is a common Lord.¹

2. I Cor. 1:2b: "to those who are sanctified in Christ"--contrary to our desire to think of salvation as regeneration, sanctification, and glorification, quite often in the Bible and perhaps more often than that of speaking of the continuing process of becoming more mature in Christ, is the simple "set aside or dedicated to Christ" meaning. However, you can easily see how when a Christian or church members grows into more Christlikeness, the sanctification of the salvation process, they are also more dedicated or set aside to the cause of Christ.

3. I Cor 1:8 is typical of what you will find in all your Bible reading--that is, primarily in the overwhelming majority of the casual or detailed mentions of "last things" {or eschatology} you will encounter the two absolute Bible words either (1) the "end" for the end of this old earth, and (2) "day of our Lord Jesus Christ" for the thread that runs so consistent and prevalent throughout Old and New Testament on that same day of both the LORD God and the Lord Jesus Christ, contrary to the bad habits of the Bible baptist fundamentalists now in control of the SBC who simultaneously claim to be more literal on Bible while they put an eschatological emphasis on extra-biblical words like "rapture" and "millennium".

NOTE: "end" of this old earth with the ushering in of a new earth happens on that same day of the LORD and Lord, that spoken of in Joel and Acts 2:20--

"The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD". (Joel 2:28 and Acts 2:20)

And here is another place you just let the Bible saying what it wants to say. When it speaks of the day of the LORD in the OT {and so quoted as for God the Father by Peter in Acts}, for the great LORD God the Father of the Universe, it plain and simply in the common sense of Bible, talking about the same day of the Lord Jesus Christ, that is the Second Coming with all the other things that happen on that same day, like the end of the old earth and the gathering of the living and dead to meet Christ in the air.²

1. This is not the same as that new church movement where it is thought to be simply so if you say it is so, or like the church of Christ which believe that if you put up a sign to that effect in front of your church you are automatically a member of the body of Christ. Both practices of unsound attitudes based on unsound doctrine are similar.

Do you not see now why the fundamentalists like Criswell, Rogers, and Stanley fought so hard to wipe out moderate¹ pastors and seminary professors who went along with the two most outstanding scholars of the SBC ever, Summers and McDowell², who taught Bible and the book of Revelation without rapture and millennium. It was down to a matter of credibility, who were baptists of the present and the future going to believe?

4. I Corinthians 1:10, "in the same mind and in the same judgment", other words and bible concepts that you will not hear from the fundamentalists in order to prevent divisions and speak the same things in all churches.

5. I Corinthians 1:17, Christ sent Paul primarily to preach the gospel rather than to baptize.

6. 1:21, it is the foolishness of the message rather than of foolish preaching that fakes out the wise of this world.

7. 1:30, "in Christ Jesus" is the favorite description for a Christian in all of Paul's letters with a very detailed description of BIC {Before in Christ} and AIC {After In Christ} in the books of Ephesians and Colossians. {See the web pages and downloads about Ephesians on the SunGrist_Bible web site of www.biblecombibleman.com.}

2. The main difference between the fictional events of the "rapture", preached and believed by Bible baptists, and what happens in the gathering of the saints at the end and Second Coming is a matter of historical timing; however the gathering of the saints to be the Lord Jesus Christ in the air at the end and Second Coming DAY is from words in the Bible. Perhaps the fiction of "Left Behind" movies and books would have been more supportable as sound Bible doctrine on eschatology instead of just plain fiction had the books and movies used real words from the Bible. You see nobody can just invent words like rapture and millennium, with attached and unique timing and concepts, then ask you to superimpose them on the Bible as the equivalent of when the saints, living and dead, are caught up in the air to meet the Lord Jesus Christ at His Second Coming.

1. Moderates in their puny little minds {Dr. Lee long before his retirement as President of the SBC and from Bellevue Baptist Church preached and wrote his sermon "Menace of Mediocrity" in which by saying "wrens make prey where eagles dare not perch" in fact predicted this time in the history of the SBC when such wrens would both take control of the convention and destroy the reputations and careers of those who did not use the words rapture and millennium.

2. Summers at Baylor on the eschatology of WORTHY IS THE LAMB and THE LIFE BEYOND, and McDowell at Southern Seminary on the eschatology of THE MEANING AND MESSAGE OF REVELATION. You will have trouble finding these books now at the Bible baptist fundamentalists controlled Lifeway bookstores.

7c-4: All these necessary details of reading and understanding the Bible are based on the more necessary of a daily pray for (1) closeness to God through Christ, and (2) service for God through Christ, making some contribution to the kingdom of Christ, and working out your own salvation with fear and trembling. It is so natural and such a daily part of our life that we sometimes forget that in the search for the deeper truths of God, many neglect this essential closeness to God through Christ and service for the kingdom of God through Christ. And it is such an assumed part of the Bible, like in the reading of I Corinthians, and since this closeness to God and service for God is such a fundamental postulate of all Christian thinking and life, we tend in our Bible reading to skim over it. Let's go back, at least one more time, reading through I Corinthians checking for these assumptions of CLOSENESS TO GOD THROUGH CHRIST AND SERVICE FOR GOD.

1. It was always as in every book of the 17 from Paul, important for him up front to mention his own great awareness of the very personal call "to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God" (I Corinthians 1:1)
2. His opening addresses generally are addressed especially to those who have personally come to recognize this closeness to God "in Christ". Even as in the Bible where BIC and AIC are the most prevalent descriptions {the word Christian is only found 3 times in the NT, "In Christ" is so common and assumed as to be neglected} of what it is to have a personal relationship with God through Christ. Like in the opening of I Corinthians 1:2, it is written to the church located at Corinth, "those sanctifies in Christ Jesus".

NOTE: The book of Ephesians is the book to read for the details of BIC and AIC.¹ As a summary of the first 10 letters of the Apostle Paul, as is the parallel book of Colossians, you will find in short form a condensation of

1. BIC is short for Before In Christ, and AIC for After In Christ. You might call it the initial salvation process, the sanctification or dedication process, or what it means to be a Christian. So many now loosely make claims on the "born again" designation for a Christian that it is refreshing to get back to what is more prevalent in the Bible as a description of a Christian.

all the great truths of the first 10 books. In fact, online at www.bible-combibleman.com, you can read or download how Ephesians and Colossians are easily Paul's great "Statement of Faith and Practice" for all who claim to be IN CHRIST.

3. If you wish to be "called saints with all those who in every place call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, theirs and ours" (1:2b), you must likewise find this closeness to God through Christ and this daily service for the kingdom of God.