

#9 THE DOCTRINE OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

30 PRACTICAL DOCTRINES YOU NEED TO KNOW | DR. RANDY WHITE

HERMENEUTICS: A WORD FOR ALL CHRISTIANS

- Hermeneutics is the set of principles one uses to interpret words.
- Every Christian *has* a hermeneutic, but only the wise Christians have *defined* (and thus can articulate) their hermeneutic.

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS

- Factors of definition: *what is the Bible?*
 - Is the Bible the word of God or does it contain the word of God?
 - Is the Bible the sole source of authority or *one source* of authority?
- Factors of doctrine: *what preconceived boundaries does the reader hold?*
 - Covenant Theology interprets all of the Bible through the lens of theological covenants, of which the adherents are sure though such covenants are not stated in Scripture.
 - The Covenant of Works: *Adam must work to remain saved.*
 - The Covenant of Grace: *God promised to save those who have faith in Him.*
 - The Covenant of Redemption: *The Godhead agreed that Jesus would be the instrument of salvation.*
 - KJV Only doctrine interprets the Bible based on the assumption that the KJV is the perfectly preserved Bible in the English language.
 - Evangelical *idea book* doctrine. The reason for so many translations today is because evangelicals have fostered this *idea book* doctrine.
- Factors of language: *what is the basis of the meaning of words*
 - Allegorical interpretation believes that God used and recorded Biblical history as a mystery-guide to living the Christian life.

A DISPENSATIONAL HERMENEUTIC

- Dispensationalism is NOT an *eschatology*. A dispensational eschatology is the outgrowth of a dispensational hermeneutic.
- Dispensational concept #1: The Bible is the Word of God because it consists of the *words* of God.
 - The Bible is not an idea about God nor ideas about God or from God.

- Dispensational Concept #2: The words of the Bible are the source of Biblical ideas and the words are individually and collectively inspired.
 - The Bible is to be interpreted literally.
 - Figurative language is to be taken “literally figurative.”
 - The Bible alerts us to figurative language.
 - 1 Corinthians 11 is an example of taking figurative language literally instead of seeing it as *literally figurative*.
 - “If the plain sense makes common sense seek no other sense...or you’ll create nonsense!”
- Dispensational Concept #3: Application of Scripture requires sound interpretation of Scripture.
 - Sound interpretation of Scripture requires taking Scripture in chronological order.
 - When taking Scripture in chronological order, one recognizes certain revelations which bring about a divide in application, so that application from one area of Scripture may not be moved beyond that divide, in either direction.
 - There was an era of Law, and another of Grace. We do not apply Law in the era of Grace, and vice-versa.
- Dispensational Concept #4: The Bible is best read to achieve knowledge of its contents.
 - The vast majority of the church has “studied” the Bible for principles of living.
 - This approach has led to Biblical ignorance, which leads to spiritual doubt, doctrinal drift, and misdirected application.
 - Dispensationalism alone believes that a knowledge of the content of Scripture is application itself, and provides all the life-application one would ever need.
- Dispensational Concept #5: The Bible is its own dictionary.
 - This is the reason that dispensationalists do word studies.
 - The meaning of the word is determined by the author. There is no meaning other than the author’s meaning.
 - In 1963 the Southern Baptist Convention added these words to their doctrinal statement (removed in 2,000): “The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ.” This little statement opened the door to all kinds of liberalism.
- Dispensational Concept #6: The Bible is all you need to fully understand God and His will for your life. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - To seek more is to fail to trust what you have as a sufficient guide.