

## BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

### Int.

1. Aim: To show that God expects man to properly interpret His message so they can obey His commands !
2. Luke 24:27 "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."
3. Some men are under the impression that the Bible is so plain it needs no interpretation !
  - a. This view is not in harmony with what Jesus teaches and what He did
  - b. Luke 24:27 "He expounded unto them"
  - c. Expounded = means to unfold the meaning of what is said, explain, interpret - to interpret fully
  - d. Acts 18:26 "Expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly"
  - e. Acts 28:23 "...to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God,...."
  - f. Acts 8:31 "How can I, except some man should guide me?....."
4. Only those who study the Bible understand it
  - a. True in all fields of learning - geology, astronomy, English, Math, Spanish, German
  - b. The truth of God's will will not be forced upon the unwilling heart. Man must study if he desires to know God's will !
5. Nothing that is written has at first been understood alike by all people
  - a. We must understand the words and the use made of those words
  - b. Sometimes words change in their meanings and we must determine the meaning of the writer
6. We will learn some of rules involved in Biblical Interpretation !

## Discussion

### I. HERMENEUTICS DEFINED

- A. Hermeneutics = the science or art of interpreting the sacred scriptures.
- B. Exegesis = to lead out - bring out the meaning of a passage by applying the laws or principles of hermeneutics
- C. Three ways of proceeding in trying to understand
  - 1. **Inductive** - applying general truths from particular facts - problem - the fault with this method may be that a person may be making a hasty judgment while accumulating the FACTS !
  - 2. **Isogesis** - to lead in - to go to the Bible to find what you already believe - fault - you move out the writer and put in yourself. !!
  - 3. **Deductive** - begin with general and proceed to the particular
    - a. Syllogism is an important part of deductive reasoning - 3 parts Major premise, minor premise, and conclusion
    - b. Unknown truth are inferred from those already known or admitted
- D. Examples of Deductive reasoning
  - 1. Dogs are animals
    - (1) All dogs are animals
    - (2) Spot is a Dog
    - (3) Therefore Spot is an animal.
  - 2. Dogs are not cats
    - (1) No dogs are cats
    - (2) Spot is a dog
    - (3) Therefore Spot is not a cat

E. The deductive method of reasoning is the best way to correctly interpret the Bible

1. 1 Thes. 5:21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

2. Expound = to unfold the meaning

## **II. THE NEED FOR A CORRECT INTERPRETATION**

A. Heal Divisions

1. Not the only cause but it would help heal many of the divisions

2. The Bible is not to blame for the division but the method of interpretation

B. To answer the atheistic objections to the Bible

1. A false interpretation often contradicts science and even the Bible itself

2. Wrong interpretation is not the only cause of unbelief

3. It would stop their charges that the Bible is not inspired.

C. To Reach Heaven

1. Many people interested in the Bible become discouraged because of the confusion and some say there is no correct interpretation

2. There is confusion even about the plan of salvation

3. God's way of Salvation is revealed in His word and we must understand and obey it in order to go to Heaven

a. Jn. 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

b. II Pet. 3:16 "As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

### **III. THINGS WHICH HINDER A CORRECT INTERPRETATION** 3 things

#### A. Desire to please the world

1. Do not want to offend anyone
2. Some will teach anything to please people - Gal. 1:10

#### B. Using Bible to prove doctrine

1. The Bible is the doctrine
2. Often a doctrine is assumed and then they go to the Bible to try to prove it.
  - a. Men try to justify denominationalism
  - b. Rom. 3:22 "...for there is no difference...."
3. The context must be considered

#### C. Reading without expecting to understand

1. Many feel that it cannot be understood so they just read for the sake of reading
2. John 8:32

### **IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR A CORRECT INTERPRETATION** 5 things

#### A. Bible is God's revelation to man

1. Inspired word of God - II Tim. 3:16
2. God expects us to study - II Tim. 2:15 Eph. 5:17

#### B. Desire to know and do the truth

1. Lk. 8:15 - good and honest heart
2. Matt. 13:16-17
3. Acts 17:11

C. Use Common Sense

1. Who was baptized in Acts 8:38 - the one who needed it
2. Meaning of cannot sin in 1 John 3:9
  - a. Tell a child he cannot play in the street ! He could, but must not !
  - b. A Christian cannot continue in the life of sin !

D. KNOW the Setting of the passage

1. Four Questions
  - a. Who is speaking?
  - b. To Whom is he speaking?
  - c. What is the subject about which he is speaking?
  - d. Under what dispensation did he speak?
2. Examples
  - a. Job 2:4 "...skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life."
    - (1) Satan is speaking
    - (2) Not completely true
    - (3) Some will give up all they have for their life
    - (4) Paul is an example - Acts 21:13
  - b. No passage should be made to contradict another passage !
    - (1) Acts 9:7 & Acts 22:9 "And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man." "And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me."
      - (2) Heard = understood

### E. **Study**

1. The disciples at first did not understand his parables !
2. They asked about them - Matt. 13:10-16
3. This investigating spirit made it possible for them to learn God's message
4. The Berean's were praised for their disposition - Acts 17:11
5. Timothy had a good background and a good teacher but he had to study
  - a. II Tim. 1:3-5
  - b. II Tim. 3:10-15
  - c. II Tim. 2:15

### **V. WILL WE BE JUDGED BY OUR INTERPRETATION ?**

A. Jesus said: "...the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."

Jn. 12:48

1. Some men will twist the scriptures - II. Pet. 3:16
2. Others will add to and then some will take away - Rev. 22:18-19
3. II John 9 - go beyond

B. Men will be judged by the truth on the day of Judgement

1. John 8:32
2. If we have not correctly interpreted the Bible and lived by it then we will not be saved.
3. It's a serious matter.
4. Matt. 7:21-23

## **Conclusion**

1. The Bible is God's revelation to man about how he should live on this earth in order to be in heaven after this life is over.
2. He has given this revelation in such a way as to require study on the part of anyone who desires to know His will.
3. Matt. 5:6 "Blessed [are] they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."
4. We can understand God's will if we desire to do so and go about it in the proper way !

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