

BIB 100 Lecture Four: How to get the truth from the Bible?

By

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1. Presuppositions {Milne 1998: 55-59}

1) Correct understanding of infallibility of the Bible

The Bible is infallible **as correctly interpreted**

- In accord with the writer's intention
- In harmony with other biblical passages [one divine author → unity of Scripture].

2) Three conditions: Soul, mind, and will

A. Faith & Regeneration

a. Divine authorship of the Bible and sinful nature of human → We cannot know God and his truth until we have been born again (John 3:3).

b. Need to overcome instinctive resistance and to have darkened mind illuminated by God.

Divine illumination refers to the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the Christian person and community in assisting believers to interpret, understand and obey the Scriptures. Illumination is a matter of faith as well as intellectual assent - the Spirit's goal in illumination moves beyond mere intellectual assent to propositions of Scripture to the moving of the human will to trust Christ and obey him.

B. Not either spirit or study, but both

The guide of the Holy Spirit does not mean that we do not need to work hard at the Bible. Need to bridge the cultural, linguistic gulfs that separate us from the Bible time and world.

C. Determination to be obedient to Scripture (John 3:21; 1 John 1:6).

NRS John 3:21 But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

NRS 1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true;

2. Biblical Interpretation

1) Exegesis: What it meant

A. Historico-grammatical sense; Literal sense

It deals primarily with the authorial intention of a biblical writer in his/her own historical context.

- Sitz-im-leben (Life setting): Historical background, original languages...
- Literary genre: Genre determines meaning too.
- Context : Passage, book, and canon.

B. Theological sense : Divine intention

a. The single divine author → the unity and self-consistency of Scripture → Scripture interprets Scripture.

b. Redemptive historical perspective (progressive revelation) → Interpret the earlier in the light of the later and fuller (the OT by the NT).

a) Exodus typology of Paul:¹ Events in the OT were written for our [the NT Christians] instruction.

NRS 1 Corinthians 10:6 Now these things occurred as examples (types) for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did.

b) Creation typology of Paul: Adam as a type of Christ

NRS Romans 5:14 Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

c. Divinely inspired through the Holy Spirit → True understanding is possible only through the help of the Holy Spirit.

- Individual aspect: Necessity of prayer [true humility] and holy life
- Corporate aspect: Church as the body of Christ

2) Hermeneutics: What it means to me now

Meaning

Application [Meaning is application]: How shall we live then?

¹ Type is an OT person, place, or event which, according to the divine intention, were set up to foreshadow future things.

* Homework: Pick a passage in the Bible and write a 7-8 page critical and devotional paper. Submit the subject and the passage by next week.