

1. In the Scriptures - The Bible

I Corinthians 2:9-13

A. In Revelation 'God revealing to man that which he would not otherwise know'

- i. The Holy Spirit is the Author of Revelation 2 Peter 1:21;
- ii. The means the Holy Spirit used
 - a. Spoken word Exodus 19:9
 - b. Dreams Genesis 20:3
 - c. Visions Isaiah 6; 1 Corinthians 2:13
 - d. Written word John 14:26;
 - e. Christ John 1; Hebrews 1:1-12

B. In Inspiration 'God Breathed'

- i. The Holy Spirit is the author of inspiration
 - a. The Old Testament 2 Timothy 3:16
 - b. The New Testament 1 Corinthians 14:37; 2 Peter 3:16

C. In Illumination "The making known or shedding light on that which God has revealed by the Holy Spirit."

- i. Teacher John 16:12-15

Hermeneutics

Definition: The science and art of interpreting the Bible.

Purpose: To know what God has said in the Bible and to understand what it means.

1. Basic schools of interpretation

A. Allegorical school

There are two levels of meaning in a passage the obvious or simple and the real or profound.

B. Devotional school

The edification of the reader in his Christian life is paramount. It carries greater weight and emphasis than the literal meaning.

C. Liberal school

The supernatural in the Bible is denied and it is interpreted on the basis of humanism.

D. Literal school

Always interpret the Bible literally unless the context demands otherwise.

Examples

Leviticus 11:3 "Whatever parts the hoof and is cloven-footed and chews the cud among the animals you may eat."

A. Allegorical

"Cleave unto those that fear the Lord... with those that know that meditation is a work of gladness and who chew the cud of the word of the Lord. But why that which divides the hoof? Because the righteous man both walks in this world and at the same time looks for the holy world to come" Epistle of Barnabas

B. Devotional

"Some suggest that the prohibition of these beasts as unclean was intended to be a caution to the people against the bad qualities of these creatures. We must not be filthy nor wallow in the mire as swine, nor be timorous or faint-hearted as hares, nor dwell in the earth as rabbits, let not man that is in honour make himself like the beasts that perish" Matthew Henry

C. Liberal

"The Hebrews acted on the theory that God is concerned with every aspect of life and with the whole of it, and this led them to bring all these primitive laws, based on early natural religion within their religious system" Peake's Commentary of the Bible

D. Literal

"The clean furred animals belong to one type only whether domesticated or wild, they are known as ruminants or animals that chew the cud, and are still our most important meat producers. Some others are considered as edible, but it was safer to have a simple rule. Any clean animal was both cloven hoofed and a chewer of the cud. Those that were one or the other were ruled out, and three such are named, hare, irax, and pig. The main purpose was probably to exclude the pig known to be host to several serious human parasites. Pork is safe only when thoroughly cooked. Further the pig is a scavenger and may spread other diseases mechanically" George Cansdale, The Lion Handbook

2. The literal system of hermeneutics

The foundation of the literal system of hermeneutics is inspiration with its goal of edification.

A. Literal or normal interpretation.

This involves interpreting words in their normal, proper, usual, customary way. It is not literalism as it allows for figurative and symbolic language.

B. Cultural interpretation.

Literal interpretation allows for culture and recognises the methods and ways of people in a geographical situation at a given time in history.

C. Critical interpretation.

Literal interpretation justifies the meaning on the basis of grammar, theology and culture.

3. General principles of interpretation

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| A. Priority | The original languages are the final authority. |
| B. Accommodation | God in His revelation accommodates His language to our humanity. |
| C. Progressive | Revelation goes from partial to complete. |
| D. Historical | A meaning must not be applied to Scripture which was impossible at the time it was written. |
| E. Differential | There is only one interpretation but there may be many applications. |
| F. Induction | Discover the meaning without presupposition. |
| G. Preference | Clear passages always displace obscure ones. |
| H. Unity | The meaning must fit the context and the Bible as a whole. |

4. Figurative speech

A. Metaphor

A word or phrase literally denoting one kind of object or idea being used in place of another to suggest a likeness or analogy between them.

e.g. I am the gate John 10:9; Go tell that fox Luke 13:32

B. Simile

The comparison of two unlike things that is often introduced by like or as.

e.g. He is like a tree Psalm 1; Like cold water Proverbs 25:25

C. Hyperbole

A deliberate exaggeration for emphasis.

e.g. The whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. John 21:25.

D. Rhetorical question

The use of a question which demands no or yes for the answer, without the answer being expected.

e.g. Are all apostles? No. 1 Corinthians 12.