

SummerSalon14 - Bibliology

We begin by introducing Bibliology, the study of the Bible. If no other systematic study of God's truth is conducted, this is the most important course to pursue. Every major doctrine taught in the Bible is introduced and oriented in Bibliology.

First, let's ask: what is the Bible? It is the 66 book closed canon. There are no lost, partial, reconstructed or fragmentary books of the Bible recovered by archaeology unless those books are already part of the canon. History records the church councils that determined the sixty-six books to be divinely inspired. Apocryphal works such as the Gospels of Thomas and Judas, and other Gnostic Gospels are *real* writings but they are not considered inspired because they present teachings contradictory to the canon. **Therefore, we must ask:**

Are there any new prophets today who have new revelation? Is God speaking to anyone through dreams or visions beyond the canon? We can say with certainty that only dreams or visions that reinforce the revealed plan of God in the 66 book canon can be divine. It is reported that those in Communist or Muslim countries are receiving truth of the risen Messiah and His offer of salvation through dreams and visions. This is certainly possible. But the western church's penchant for embracing new apostolic revival with new anointed prophets is false. To counter dangers posed by these movements it is better to know that effective mastery of the Scriptures is possible for students who are *teachable*. What does it mean to be teachable? 2 Tim 2:15 states, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." A workman is the Bible student who is willing to accurately handle God's truth while seeking Spirit-filled teachers to elucidate and confirm that truth. Otherwise, the student willfully decides they can determine through private interpretation the Bible's meaning. This only leads to confusion and error. See the PowerPoint teaching on the meaning and application of 2 Tim 2:15.

When the Bible student handles God's Word according to 2 Tim 2:15 he reads it according to a literal interpretation —not allegorical or spiritual. This does not mean there are no allegories in the Bible. It means the way the words are interpreted in their source language (Hebrew, Greek and some Aramaic), is

according to a literal *hermeneutic*, not by allegory or spiritualizing. See the posted “Chicago Statement of Biblical Inerrancy” that teaches literal interpretation of the Bible. Literal interpretation reveals the macrostructure of the entire divine plan for man. That macrostructure is eight covenants God makes with man and seven dispensations in which God demonstrates the outworking of those covenants. (Please note, these covenants are not the covenants claimed by Covenant Theology.) Posted is a teaching on these eight covenants as taught by Arnold Fruchtenbaum of Ariel Ministries. Downloadable also is an eleven page summary of those covenants. Of the eight covenants, only the first —the Edenic —and the fifth —the Mosaic (Law) were conditional. Those two covenants are now ended due to disobedience of Adam and Eve under the Edenic covenant and the disobedience by all who lived under the dispensation of the Law. Provisions of the Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Land, Davidic, and New Covenants are unconditional, and are eternally in effect. It is surprising to many believers that the New Covenant is made with Israel, not the Church. The church is grafted into the olive tree of Romans 11. She is *partaker* of the blessings of the New Covenant, not the *over taker* of it. The NT will not be entirely fulfilled until the end of the Tribulation —through the Millennium. We are living in the dispensation of the church —the dispensation of the Law having been closed out the moment Christ died —perfectly fulfilling the requirements of the law for holy sacrifice according to Leviticus. The Law no longer has any power or authority over man, as all power and authority is vested in Christ Jesus who is at the right hand of God, the Father. Those who are *spiritually in Christ* fully meet the requirements of God’s law.

Two false teachings about dispensations are, first, hyper or Ultradispensationalism that incorrectly identifies the birth of the church in Acts 28 rather than Acts 2. Second, is progressive dispensationalism that expresses so much theological error that whole books have to be written to explain them. See Dr. Ron Bigalke’s, ***Progressive Dispensationalism***. See also a research paper submitted to Southern California Seminary on the errors of Progressive Dispensationalism.

Regarding Bible translation and Bible versions —especially significant in the past fifty years has been the error of the King James *only* movement. Otherwise known as Ruckmanism, advocates of this false theory believe God did not produce and

preserve His perfect Word *until* —and *not after* —King James' committee completed the 1611 version. But never do these adherents admit they do not read the 1611 version! The only KJ Bible printed today is the Blayney version of 1769 —a revised KJV. On this website see a research paper presented to Chafer Theological Seminary on the errors of the KJVO movement.

Weightier controversy regarding Bible versions, translations and commentaries includes the ***Jewish Annotated New Testament***, published in 2011. On face we are not surprised by this title. The Bible *is* a Jewish book. And Dr. David Stern, among several Jews has offered his own translation of the Greek New Testament in 1989. However, the difference between his work and the work of the contributors to the ***JANT*** is that not one of those is a *messianic Jew*, a believer in Christ Jesus, as is David Stern. By Rav Sha'ul's testimony, one who does not have the light of the Holy Spirit is not able to understand and teach the Bible. Having the light of the Holy Spirit is based on having received the grace gospel, exemplifying faith alone, in Christ alone. Evidence does indicate the ***JANT*** has provided some correction of egregious interpreting *out* of the NT all Hebraism or Jewishness. This certainly is what erroneous, replacement theology does. Yet, it is the conviction of this researcher that unless Jesus' command, "Ye must be born again" applies to the scholars of any Bible work, that work fails to edify and reflect God's truth. Several documents are posted that analyze the ***JANT***.

Having covered several broad requirements for effective study of the Bible I now introduce Paula Fether to discuss context, syntax, and grammar. Without correct understanding of these elements of Bible study the student is not able to discern the divine message God reveal. (See Paula's Interview on context, syntax, grammar.)

One last point regarding Bibliology. It is estimated the Bible or parts have been translated into over 2,500 languages and dialects. This however leaves nearly 4,183 languages in which no translation is available. That represents well over 200 million of earth's population. As there are over 7 billion people, 200 million may not seem like a large proportion. However, exponential population growth indicates the church is still behind in sharing the gospel of grace in *written* form. Therefore, the Lord is working through the Orality movement to take His truth to the nations. It is

conservatively estimated 50% of the adults in the world cannot learn by reading. It is clear that Paul's words are prophetic as well as doctrinal: "Faith comes by *hearing*, and *hearing* by the word of God" (Rom 10;17). Hearing necessitates *oral* presentation of the Bible. Dorothy Miller briefly discusses the Orality movement. See wwwSimplyTheStory.org for how you can be a part of bringing the gospel in oral form to unreached peoples and oral learners of the world.