

Chapter Two Workbook: The Views Of Scripture (Part Two)

Scripture Memory:

II Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

II Peter 1:21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Scripture Review:

☐ Revelation 22:18 & 19

(Continued)

I. The Word of God and Classic Evangelical Reformation Theology – “The Word of God is understood and interpreted by the Word of God.”

A. The Word of God is the sole revelation

I Timothy 2:5 - *For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,*

- a. Define “one God”
- b. Define “one Mediator”
- c. What does the phrase “between God and man” mean?
- d. Write a summery statement concerning this passage.

1. There is one God and one Mediator.

- a. This exalted view of the Word of God is not simply the “conservative” approach. Rather it arises from an exalted view of God. To question the sole revelation of the Word of God is to question the sole mediatorial role of Christ to the one God. Anything by which the Word of God is understood and interpreted by becomes by nature a mediator between God and man.
- b. Besides the Word of God, what are things in the church today which are used to understand the Word of God?

1.) How has this led to confusion?

2.) What divisions or denominations in the Body of Christ would not exist if the Word of God solely and only interpreted itself?

3.) How has Satan attacked the classic reformation view of the Word of God?

Isaiah 46:9 & 10 *"Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';*

- a. To what does the phrase *"Remember the former things long past,"* refer?
- b. What unique quality does God present about Himself in this passage?
- c. What will God establish?
- d. How does this passage speak to the authority of God's Word?

Malachi 2:10 *"Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers?"*

- a. What is meant by *"the covenant of our fathers"*
- b. To what is appealed in terms of validating the "covenant" the Word of God?

2. Isaiah 46:9 & 10; Malachi 2:10 – This one God has spoken to us and it is to His Words that we are held accountable

- a. How do these passages speak to an exalted position of God's Word?
- b. How do these passages speak to God as being the sovereign sustainer of His Word?
- c. In terms of these passages how is the sovereignty of God and the authority of His Word linked?

Revelation 22:18 & 19 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

- a. What does the phrase *"adds to them,"* mean?
- b. What does the phrase *"takes away from"* mean?
- c. Given the scope of topics of the book of Revelation, what problems are faced by those who would limit this injunction to this book?

3. Revelation 22:18 & 19 – This revelation is finished, it cannot be added to nor

taken away from.

Revelation 22:18 & 19 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

- a. In many modern day republics, constitutions which were written hundreds of years ago are being reexamined. Can the limited understanding of the framers of the constitution be used in dealing with modern day issues. Thus there is a call for a fluid, evolving understanding of constitutional laws. The frailties of the formers of the constitution, it is said, in terms of history, science and technology, must be taken into account when approaching the document. Thus arguments are put forth for a fluid, non literal approach to the constitution.
- b. This spirit of the age in terms of the legal writings of men must not creep into our view of the Word of God. God, the Author and Sustainer of His Holy Word possessed no such frailties. Nor was He in any way restricted by the frailties of the agents He chose to compose His Holy Word. God, by His very nature knows the beginning from the end, knows all history, all science, all technology, all cultures, all peoples, God is in fact omniscient, all knowing. As a result, His Word is final, it need not be fluid to adjust for unforeseen events. It is not added to nor taken away from, it is the Holy Word of God.
- c. What issues today are causing normally conservative evangelical Christians to feel the need to “tweak” or fix the Word of God in light of the radical changes taking place in our culture?

Isaiah 45:5 & 6 I am the Lord, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other,

- a. What does the phrase, “; Besides Me there is no God” mean?

4. *Isaiah 45:5 & 6 - There are no other gods and therefore no other revelations, I am the Lord, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other,*

- a. satan’s flaw is that he sought to be like God. His rebellious heart is revealed in Isaiah 14:14, where he proclaims, *‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’*
- b. How can satan’s desire to be like God be seen in his famous statement in Genesis 3:1, *“Indeed, has God said...”*
- c. In man’s fained humility and vanity, he does not claim to be God, simply to be able to question the Word of God, *“Indeed, has God said...”* has become the mantra of those who wish to maintain an aura of orthodoxy without submitting to it’s authority. How is satan’s deception seen in modern

evangelical's view of difficult passages in the Word of God? To what issues are we most likely respond, "Indeed, has God said?"

5. Hebrews 1:1 & 2 - God has spoken to us clearly through the ages and in the last days He has spoken to us through His Son.

Hebrews 1:1 & 2 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

- a. God's Word is inseperatable from God's will.
- b. How is an attack on the Word of God an equal attack on the Son of God?
- c. Is there anything in the Bible that Jesus would disagree with?
- d. In what way is Jesus in agreement with the total revelation of God?

B. II Peter 1:21 - The authority of the Word of God is based upon it's divine revelation and inspiration of the Holy Spirit

for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

1. The Word of God did not come from an act of the human will. Men were not concerned with a problem, decided to address the problem, and then God used their reasoning to convey His Word as well. What we have in the Word of God, has it's origins in the will of God, not man. This concept of God using man's will and thoughts to interject His own, comes from man and is not found in the Word of God.
2. Men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. Men were moved by the Holy Spirit to speak from God. Men were not moved by their world view to speak on behalf of God. In giving us the Word of God, God did not make use of man, He used man.
3. In contrast to the Word of God being men made use of by God, "an act of human will", rather, "men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God".
4. Thus what we have is the Word of God revealed, not the Word of God veiled in the will of man. We have God sovereignly and clearly using men, whether they were aware of this or not to convey His Word. Thus any seemingly interjection of man into the Word of God is just that. It is there, not by the will of man but rather by the movement of the Holy Spirit.
5. What impact would the subtle difference between a.) the Word of God coming from an act of human will, yet being used by God e.g. God making use of man, and b.) the Word of God not resulting as an act of human will, e.g. God using man, - make in our use of the Word of God?

C. II Timothy 3:16 - All aspects of the Word of God are equally authoritative.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

1. All scripture is inspired by God.
2. Whether God the Father, God the Son or God the Holy Spirit is speaking, God being indivisible, is speaking.
3. The question then is not, "What does Jesus have to say about this subject?", but rather, "What does God's Word have to say about this subject?".
4. It is in God's Word that we have the full revelation of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

5. God's Word then, is understood and defined by God's Word. If God's Word says the Jesus has fulfilled the requirements of the Old Covenant Sacrificial system, then on the authority of God's Word we are freed from those ordinances.
6. How would emphasizing one member of the Trinity over another in our study of God's Word impact our view and application of the Word of God?

D. John 12:48; James 4:11; Hebrews 4:12 - We do not judge the Word of God, it judges us.

John 12:48 *He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.*

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

James 4:11 *Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother, or judges his brother, speaks against the law, and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge of it.*

1. Man does not judge the Word of God.
2. The Word of God judges man.
3. Our goal is to understand what God is saying.
4. It is not to determine what we think God should say.
5. How is man's tendency to judge the Word of God seen in our modern day church?

E. Matthew 15:6; II Corinthians 4:2 - We do not manipulate the Word of God.

Matthew 15:6 *he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And thus you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.*

II Corinthians 4:2 *but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

1. As a result of the clear relationship between man and the Word of God, that being, man does not judge the Word of God, rather, the Word of God judges man.
2. Man need not "fix" the Word of God. Since it is timeless, since it was written by a sovereign, omniscient God, that which seems unreasonable does so because of our sinful nature, because of our willingness to join with satan and Eave in considering the question, "Indeed, has God said..."
3. In what ways do we tend to manipulate the Word of God to make it more palatable to those around us?
4. What doctrines or commands do you find embarrassing and seek to "hide" from non-Christians? (Hell, Election, All others are wrong, Husbands role, Others?"

II. Application

A. Know the facts

1. Prejudicial Predisposition – This is a term I use to describe the so called "higher criticism" of the Word of God where supposed additions and subtractions are exposed. These are done purely on the basis of the conviction that it did take place, so from a standpoint of predetermined prejudice, these so called errors are located. When asked to produce comparative texts, none are forth coming. There in fact exist

no comparative texts which show changes have occurred, over the years, in the Word of God.

2. The integrity of the scriptures in light of other ANE Texts – In fact, the argument that changes have been introduced in the Bible has long been abandoned by archeologists, who have found it an invaluable source in dating and locating ancient sites. Secular archeologists, though not believing the contents, relegating them to myth, no longer make the claim of changes. Being scientist, they have the discipline not to make unsupported claims which would require the abandonment of the scientific method.

B. Know the issues

1. On the surface it seems just to be the issue of obscure texts or as one para-church leader put it, “personality conflicts”.
2. In reality this issue begs foundational doctrinal questions...
 - a. The Nature of God – Is He sovereign?
 - 1.) Has He cared and watched over His Word?
 - 2.) Has He spoken purposefully or are there indeed superfluous passages in the Word of God.
 - b. The Sufficiency of Christ – Is the text which brings us Christ reliable?
 - 1.) Does our salvation bring with it spiritual sight?
 - 2.) Are we satisfied with Christ or are we continually seeking new and higher spiritual experiences?
 - c. The Authority of the Word of God -
 - 1.) Is the Word of God Inspired?
 - 2.) Is the Word of God Eternal?
 - 3.) Is the Word of God Inerrant?
 - 4.) Is it revealed to man?

C. Know The Word of God

1. Hear – Romans 10:17
2. Read – Deuteronomy 17:18 - 20
3. Study – Ezra 7:10
4. Memorize – Psalm 119: 9 & 11
5. Meditate – Joshua 1:8
6. The Hand Illustration as a diagnostic tool

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: The Word of God as the sole authority of The Word of God

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Isaiah 46:9 & 10; Malachi 2:10

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Revelation 22:18 7 19

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

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How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Hebrews 1:1 & 2

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QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: The Word of God as the sole authority of The Word of God

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Timothy 3:16 & 17

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Hebrews 4:12

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 15:5 & 6; II Corinthians 4:2

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?