

The New Hermeneutic

In 2 Tim. 2:15 Paul speaks of *accurately handling the word of truth*. There is a right way & wrong way to handle God's word. The expression literally means to "cut straight." *What is your view of the Bible?* Do you share the same view of it as the Thessalonians? (1 Thess 2:13-17) Most people in today's religious world do not respect the all sufficiency of God's word. So, some are tempted to abandon efforts to appeal to bible authority. These argue for a "new hermeneutic" **or** a new system of Bible study.

I. What are we talking about here & why is it important?

- A. Hermeneutics is the procedure by which certain logical principles are applied to a document to understand the author's original meaning.
- B. Sacred hermeneutics is the science of bible interpretation.
 - 1. There are 3 methods used to discern what is right & lawful in religion.
 - 2. Jesus used all 3 in teaching/explaining the Scriptures:
 - a) Command – Mk. 16:16; Approved Example – Mt. 12:5
 - b) Necessary Inference – Mt. 22:32-22
 - 3. The new hermeneutic abandons such a method of interpretation.

II. New Hermeneutics makes a distinction between gospel & doctrine.

- A. *Differences in doctrine should not stand in the way of unity.*
- B. Certain fundamentals of faith are the only things we must agree upon...
 - 1. Doctrine does not have to be stressed for fellowship to take place.
- C. Scripture makes no distinction between gospel & doctrine.
 - 1. Rom 6:17-18 – Paul gives credit to doctrine for emancipating sinners.
 - 2. Rom 10:16 – commended those who obeyed the gospel.
 - 3. While the words are not synonymous –they are used interchangeably in scripture.
 - 4. See also 1 Tim. 1:8-11. Doctrine & gospel used interchangeably.

III. New Hermeneutics says no doctrine can be made a test of fellowship that comes through logical reasoning.

- A. In other words – throw out Necessary Inference
- B. But... the existence of God demands reason. (Rom. 1:20)
- C. It takes reasoning/logic/ NI to conclude that we are to apply what God said.
- D. God has commanded the usage of logic & reasoning:
 - 1. Eph. 5:17 – *understand*; Heb. 5:14 – *having their senses trained*.
 - 2. Mt. 15:10 – *HEAR and UNDERSTAND*.

IV. New Hermeneutics says the epistles are not a pattern for all Christians.

- A. Epistles are simply *love letters* for all Christians. *They are not a blueprint.*
Where did the epistles come from? Jhn 14:26; 16:13
- B. Epistles were intended for a wider audience than they were sent.
 - 1. 1 Cor. 16:1; 4:17; Col. 4:16
- C. The FC Christians were expected to follow the teaching of the apostles.
 - 1. Acts 2:42; 1 Thess 2:13; 2 Thess 2:15; 3:14; 2 Tim. 1:13; 3:10
- D. Are we really willing to conclude the epistles are not a pattern for us?

Conclusion:

- A. Our entire view of scripture influences everything we do in religion.
- B. How do we treat God?
- C. INVITATION