

Bible Hermeneutics = Bible "Understanding"

Since hermeneutics is not a Bible word, and "understanding" is, what we are really after in hermeneutics, the science and art of Bible interpretation, is Bible "understanding"; and very fundamental to the understanding of understanding is: (1) the fundamental of those who have made their reputations as fundamentalists, confusing in classic Scofield mite fashion what is fundamentals with what is conservative with the "faith once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3); and (2) there is only one interpretation put in the Bible (II Peter 1:20,21), the ASPI, and any time other interpretations come out of the Bible, it is either due to "we carry this treasure in earthen vessels" or a failure to push through on the principles that the Bible Itself has laid down for proper understanding, more generally a bad attitude.

NOTE: Sorry that this is so long, but the word "understanding" is big in the Bible, 24 times in the New Testament.

1. Understanding from Jesus in Matthew 15:12-16.

"Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch. Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable. And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding?"

Gist of Principle #1: To a certain extent the whole Bible is a parable designed to confuse the uninitiated unbelievers and to illuminate the conservative elect. Beware of religious leaders that count on their positions in society for authority on the Bible, say like degrees without the Spirit. On the most positive side, UNDERSTAND IS A GIFT NOT A DEGREE OR DEGREES.

2. Again understanding from Jesus in Mark 7:16-18.

"If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. And when he was entered into the house from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable. And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him..."

Gist of Principle #2: To be without understanding is to not have the built in, ears, capability to understand, that is understanding is by the GRACE of God, both of the new birth and of later spiritual discernment. We will hear more later in the Bible on this principle. (Principles is more a hermeneutics term and concept, teachings of the Bible is more a Bible understanding term and concept.)

3. Mark 12:32-34 is almost Bible understanding of religious leaders, the scribes, who got close to the kingdom of God.

“And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.”

Gist Principle #3: Bible understanding comes from deep love of God, His Word, and His real kingdom.

4. Certainty of Understanding from Dr. Luke in Luke, Luke 1:1-4.

“Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed. There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course.”

Gist Principle #4: The training of Dr. Luke was medical training, but he had personal experience eyewitness with Jesus and the Apostles. Bible, Bible, Bible itself is the key to understand whether it comes in formal training and personal Bible reading and study. What we are talking about here is PERSONAL ENGAGEMENT with Jesus, the facts of the Bible, and the Christian movement. If you don't have "perfect understanding" of the Bible, get it by following the principles the Bible Itself, and Jesus, lay down for understanding.

5. Understanding comes from a touch from heaven and a life of being about our Father's business more than other concerns, Luke 2:46-40. The key to unlock understand here is a touch from heaven in the HOLY SPIRIT and being about God's business {it is not an academic book}, the cause of Christ and kingdom service.

“And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?”

6. Luke 24:44-47, while you are reading and studying Scripture, Jesus Himself must open your understanding on the law, the prophets and psalms, mainly in the light of Christ's atonement, resurrection, and commission to preach repentance and remission of sins in Christ's name to all the nations, alias "the faith once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3) through the Apostles and Prophets, alias the Bible.

"And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

7. Understanding? Retain God in your knowledge, bringing up, and education--formal or personal study--careful not to be influenced (spotted) by your society and world toward a reprobate mind. It is so foolish to think that a sceptic, gay or lesbian, and a worldly philosopher (PhD) can understand or teach Bible. "The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." (Romans 1:28-32)

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

8. I Corinthians 1:17-21. The Priority over wisdom form above over worldly wisdom. All of us are both victims of our culture and education and recipients of abundant benefits. Pray for wisdom from God to keep the cross central, find the power of God in preaching, and use the correct words and pattern of the Bible.

"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

NOTE: Yes, unseen to most, God is in the business of destroying "the wisdom of the wise", making nothing out of "the understanding of the prudent". One might say "Reshaping your education if you will allow Him."

9. I Corinthians 14:14,15. Pray, speak, prophesy, be a Bible expositor and evangelize and sing in the Spirit and understanding, "understanding" is here 3 times in only two verses. Are you amazed that Bible hermeneutics, alias Bible understanding, has so much to do with our public worship, prayer, and evangelism.

"For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."

10. Another 3 "understanding"s in two verses, I Corinthians 14:19,20.

"Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might edify others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men."

NOTE: One of the saddest commentaries on our times and the great Apostasy of the falling away is one of the greatest evangelists of all times is confusing the world with unknown tongues as much as known tongues, and thinks he has the gift of an expositor as well as song and evangelism. What we really have here is a revival of the confusion of tongues at Babel. And Balaam has to have something to do with it like with Osteen and the Scofield mites for fame and fortune, alias money. Now we hear that a very active southern Baptist, Beth Moore, is getting into the unknown tongues business.

11. Ephesians 1:18-23, oh how well in Ephesians Paul not only summarized the first 10 of his NT letters, but also the whole matter of understanding the Bible., a prayer for enlightened understanding in proper perspective with hope, the Christian calling in the body of Christ, riches with the saints in the faith once for all delivered, and the greatness of His power.

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power...And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."

NOTE: Sorry I must tell on some great and also mediocre men of the southern Baptist convention, but their confusions on Bible hermeneutics has greatly come from their confusion of what John R. Rice was good at, "One church but many churches". Of the 128 times the word ecclesia for church is in the NT, most are the local church but 22 are of the total body of Christ, such as above in Ephesians 1:23. In other words, those that did warfare and takeover in the SBC did in a larger body of Christian brethren what they never would have allowed in their local church, making significant and historic contributions with Scofield of the following away, and successfully disguised it under the demonic veil of the rapture.

12. Ephesians 4:17-21, How Well Did You Learn Christ?

"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus..."

13. All kinds of bad hermeneutics are mentioned here that distort or prevent proper understanding of the Bible in the name of Christ. Sorry once again this so long, but you read it carefully and you will notice violations of Bible understanding in your own life, family, and church. (Ephesians 5:11-23)

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body."

14. Philippians 4:7, some things in the Bible are a matter of emotions and love, going beyond the understanding of the mind, like understanding the peace of God fully.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

15. Colossian 1:8-10, beyond love and love in the Spirit is knowledge, add it to your spirit, being "filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understand, living according to it, pleasing God, fruitful (profitable), and increasing your knowledge of God.

"Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit. For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of

the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God..."

NOTE: Some keep looking for a simple one sentence Bible Hermeneutics, well here it is in one acronym of APCC for Alive dynamically with high fidelity, Profitability, Comparable, and Consistency! And don't forget what you are working with in the Bible, it is ASPI, II Peter 1:20,21 for (1) Authorized interpretation, (2) Semi- in that the reader must be born again then it is (3) Public not private; and (3) there is only one interpretation and it is our job to find it out as much as humanly possible in proper attitude and perseverance of seeking, and our chances are best as we strive hard according to the Bible rules of hermeneutics.

16. Colossians 2:2-4, this gets our hearts and minds on the twin aspects of revelation and illumination, with a "full assurance (faith and awareness for that comforting felling of interpretation), how do you get full assurance on proper interpretation by the acknowledgement of the Father and Son in whom are hid all the treasures of both wisdom and knowledge; and with a caution that not any man should beguile you on that proper understanding "with enticing words".

"That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words."

17. I Timothy 4:1-9, don't take heed to the Messianic Judaizers and the Scofield mites that tamper with the Word, striving to add or take way with bad mathematics of bad hermeneutics from the pure Word, violating Revelation 22:19 with their poor math, in the first case wanting to add back into the Gospel the law, and in the second case, distorting the gospel of the kingdom with the kingdom of one thousand years. (NOTE: Sure the Scofield notes and their influence affects greatly the real gospel!)

"Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do. Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers..."

NOTE: Your hermeneutics of understand will affect a pure heart with warfare, a good conscience with destruction of the larger church body, and do offence to the "faith once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

18. "Give thee understanding" reminds us that understanding is a gift of God, coming with the labors of partaker the fruits of the Word of God, II Timothy 2:4-7.

“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits. Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.”

19. I John 5:20, Jesus came and gave us the understanding of hermeneutics the end goal of our hermeneutics being: (1) to know the Son of God, the truth; (2) that we are IN HIM, that is IN CHRIST, (3) the true God, and (4) eternal life. The Apostle John has a way with words.

“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.”

20. Revelation 13:18, understand in Revelation is like understand in the rest of the Bible, no one hermeneutics different from each, and at point here is by understanding like Dr. Ray Summers labors in “Worthy is the Lamb” that the proper interpretation had to have meaning to the first century reader, and the same is for us. Namely that the beast was Caesar.

“Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.”