

Take the Guesswork Out of Biblical Interpretation – Part 1

The Bible as a whole has been misinterpreted and misunderstood for centuries, since the ministry of the Apostles of Jesus Christ. **Centuries!**

That statement may be condemned as perhaps one of the most arrogant conclusions ever made. Nevertheless, I submit to you that the most fundamental truth about what the Bible is about and who it's for has been wrong. The big picture has been grossly distorted. Catholic or Protestant, it makes no difference.

Conventional Conclusions

That is not to say that individual doctrines have not been thoroughly studied and verifiable biblical conclusions are true, correct, and certain. Those scholars over the centuries who have employed historical, grammatical principles of interpretation have been helpful. And yet, disagreement among them is commonplace in many areas of doctrine.

Worse, when trying to make sense of the Bible as a whole, for whatever reason, man has created an imposed “system” out of his own head. Dispensational theology has been one of the most glaring examples. But even Reformed theology, although more accurate to the text of the Bible in some areas (like correcting certain Catholic doctrines), has missed the target of understanding **the big picture**.

The problems of “Christian” thought, unresolved for centuries, have been the result of refusal to examine certain **preconceived ideas** and **unverified** and **unproven assumptions** which have been accepted as immutable, unapproachable “fact.” These assumptions have also been imposed consciously or unconsciously on selected passages of scripture to create erroneous conclusions as to what they actually say and mean.

Off Target

Let me give you an example about what I am trying to get across. If you want to “sight in” a hunting rifle, your goal is to make sure the crosshairs in the rifle scope are fixed on the bullseye of a distant target.

What's the procedure? You secure the rifle on a stable platform, line up the crosshairs on the center of the target and fire the first shot. If you find the hole in the target is off center, you make adjustments on the rifle scope and repeat the procedure. You do that repeatedly until you successfully hit the center of the target.

In other words, you can't accurately hit the center of the target in the distance until you find the right starting point. The trajectory of the bullet coming out of the rifle must be "on target."

Restoring accuracy and certainty in biblical interpretation can be achieved **if you have the right starting point from the beginning**. Then, you can discover for yourself what the Bible actually says and means.

The question is, what is that starting point and how do you find it? We will be addressing this in Part 2.

Please download and share. Thank you!