

# HOW TO READ THE BIBLE FOR ALL ITS WORTH

CHAPTER 4 – THE EPISTLES:  
THE HERMENEUTICAL QUESTIONS

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS

- We tend to use Common Sense – apply what makes sense and leave the rest in history

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS

- We tend to use Common Sense – apply what makes sense and leave the rest in history
- Most texts are not about “what we should or should not” but rather serve as reminders

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS

- The challenge exists in the texts that are not so clear

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS

- The challenge exists in the texts that are not so clear
- We often pick and choose which texts to hold to based on our own bias

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS

- 1 Timothy 5:23

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS

- 1 Timothy 5:23
- 1 Corinthians 11:14 vs 1 Corinthians 11:15

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS

- 1 Timothy 5:23
- 1 Corinthians 11:14 vs 1 Corinthians 11:15
- Titus 3:5

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS - ARMINIANISM

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS - ARMINIANISM

- Romans 8:30

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS - ARMINIANISM

- Romans 8:30
- Romans 9:16-24

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS - ARMINIANISM

- Romans 8:30
- Romans 9:16-24
- Galatians 1:15

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS - ARMINIANISM

- Romans 8:30
- Romans 9:16-24
- Galatians 1:15
- Ephesians 1:4-5

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS - CALVINISM

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS - CALVINISM

- 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS - CALVINISM

- 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- 2 Peter 2:20-22

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS - CALVINISM

- 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- 2 Peter 2:20-22
- Hebrews 6:4-6

# COMMON HERMENEUTICS

- Are we trying to understand Scripture or are we trying to get around Scripture?

# FIRST RULE

# FIRST RULE

- A text cannot mean what it never could have meant to the author or readers.

# FIRST RULE

- A text cannot mean what it never could have meant to the author or readers.
- Narrows limits by dictating what it cannot mean

# FIRST RULE

- A text cannot mean what it never could have meant to the author or readers.
- Narrows limits by dictating what it cannot mean
- 1 Corinthians 13:9-10

# FIRST RULE

- A text cannot mean what it never could have meant to the author or readers.
- Narrows limits by dictating what it cannot mean
- 1 Corinthians 13:9-10
- If the NT supersedes prophesying and tongues then they would have had to have known about the NT

# SECOND RULE

## SECOND RULE

- Whenever we share comparable particulars (similar specific life situations) with the first century hearers, God's word to us is the same as God's word to them.

# PROBLEMS

# PROBLEMS

- Problem of Extended Application
- Problem of Particulars that are not Comparable
- Problem of Cultural Relativity
- Problem of Task Theology

# EXTENDED APPLICATION

# EXTENDED APPLICATION

- 1 Corinthians 3:10-17

# EXTENDED APPLICATION

- 1 Corinthians 3:10-17
- What are the implications if this is inclusive of the individual?

# EXTENDED APPLICATION

- 1 Corinthians 3:10-17
- What are the implications if this is inclusive of the individual?
- Destruction of the body means condemnation

# EXTENDED APPLICATION

- 1 Corinthians 3:10-17
- What are the implications if this is inclusive of the individual?
- Destruction of the body means condemnation
- Works based salvation

# INCOMPARABLE PARTICULARS

# INCOMPARABLE PARTICULARS

- Issues that occurred in the 1<sup>st</sup> century without a 21<sup>st</sup> century counterpart

# INCOMPARABLE PARTICULARS

- Issues that occurred in the 1<sup>st</sup> century without a 21<sup>st</sup> century counterpart
- Eating of food sacrificed to idols (1 Cor 10)

# INCOMPARABLE PARTICULARS

- Issues that occurred in the 1<sup>st</sup> century without a 21<sup>st</sup> century counterpart
  - Eating of food sacrificed to idols (1 Cor 10)
  - Paul's arguments from a place of apostolic authority

# INCOMPARABLE PARTICULARS

- Issues that could happen in the 21<sup>st</sup> century but are highly unlikely

# INCOMPARABLE PARTICULARS

- Issues that could happen in the 21<sup>st</sup> century but are highly unlikely
  - Issues with the abuse of communion to articulate influence (1 Corinthians 11)

# INCOMPARABLE PARTICULARS

- In these cases, we must find the principle
- The principle then must be applied to like situations
- We must avoid extending application in order to capture “minor” items of preference

# CULTURAL RELATIVITY

# CULTURAL RELATIVITY

- God's eternal word has *historical particularity*.

# CULTURAL RELATIVITY

- God's eternal word has *historical particularity*.
- This is the area of most difficulty

# CULTURAL RELATIVITY

- God's eternal word has *historical particularity*.
- This is the area of most difficulty
- What passages do we leave in the past and which do we carry forward?

# CULTURAL RELATIVITY

- What is the core of Scripture and what is peripheral?

# CULTURAL RELATIVITY

- What is the core of Scripture and what is peripheral?
- Keeping the main thing, the main thing.

# CULTURAL RELATIVITY

- What is the core of Scripture and what is peripheral?
  - Keeping the main thing, the main thing.
  - Human depravity, Christ's sufficiency, His return

# CULTURAL RELATIVITY

- What is the core of Scripture and what is peripheral?
  - Keeping the main thing, the main thing.
  - Human depravity, Christ's sufficiency, His return
  - Holy kiss, women's head covering, charisma

# CULTURAL RELATIVITY

- What does the New Testament see as inherently moral? – Redemptive Path

# CULTURAL RELATIVITY

- What does the New Testament see as inherently moral? – Redemptive Path
- Paul's sin lists never contain cultural items

# CULTURAL RELATIVITY

- What does the New Testament see as inherently moral? – Redemptive Path
  - Paul's sin lists never contain cultural items
  - The other items are merely wrong when abused or used to diminish others

# CULTURAL RELATIVITY

- Where is the New Testament uniform?

# CULTURAL RELATIVITY

- Where is the New Testament uniform?
- Hatred, murder, stealing, homosexuality, drunkenness, sexual immorality

# CULTURAL RELATIVITY

- Where is the New Testament uniform?
- Hatred, murder, stealing, homosexuality, drunkenness, sexual immorality
- Women in ministry, food sacrificed to idols, gaining wealth

# CULTURAL RELATIVITY

- Homosexuality
- No where in Scripture are there examples of permissive use

# CULTURAL RELATIVITY

- Homosexuality
- Nowhere in Scripture are there examples of permissive use
- Women in Ministry
  - Acts 18 and 21 and 1 Corinthians 11

# TASK THEOLOGY

# TASK THEOLOGY

- Epistles are often task oriented rather than systematic theology

# TASK THEOLOGY

- Epistles are often task oriented rather than systematic theology
- This does not mean that the theology cannot be presented systematically

# TASK THEOLOGY

- 1 Corinthians 6:2-3

# TASK THEOLOGY

- 1 Corinthians 6:2-3
- 1 Corinthians 10:16-21

# TASK THEOLOGY

- 1 Corinthians 6:2-3
- 1 Corinthians 10:16-21
- “God has given us all we *need* but not necessarily all we *want*.”

# TASK THEOLOGY

- We are asking *our* questions to the text but the text is intended to answer *their* question.

# TASK THEOLOGY

- We are asking *our* questions to the text but the text is intended to answer *their* question.
- Abortion

# TASK THEOLOGY

- We are asking *our* questions to the text but the text is intended to answer *their* question.
  - Abortion
  - Remarriage

# TASK THEOLOGY

- We are asking *our* questions to the text but the text is intended to answer *their* question.
  - Abortion
  - Remarriage
  - Infant Baptism

# TASK THEOLOGY

- This does not mean that we do not bring a biblical worldview, only that we must be careful to not answer for ourselves.

# HOMEWORK

- Read Genesis Chs 37-50
- Read Chapter 5 in the book