

HOW TO BE A QUALIFIED INTERPRETER OF GOD'S WORD

PASTOR'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – OCTOBER 17, 2007
TABERNACLE OF PRAISE – PASTOR G. RICHARDSON

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2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2Ti 2:16 But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

Psa 1:2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psa 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh **you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:**

THREE GROUPS OF INTERPRETERS

1. Legal Interpreters:

Act 13:27 For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled *them* in condemning *him*.

- a. **The Rulers:** refers to the priest, scribes, and Pharisees in the days of Christ.
- b. The Scribes were the official interpreters of the Old Testament Scriptures. And because of letterism and legalism they misinterpreted the voices of the prophets, and finally crucified the Lord Jesus with their legal interpretation.

- c. This shows that it is possible, to know the letter of the Scriptures, but because of legalistic interpretation, miss Him of whom the Scriptures speak. (Jesus).

Joh 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Joh 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

2. **False Interpreters**: The Scriptures also refer to another group of interpreters who are clearly revealed as false.
- a. **In 11 Corinthians 4:2**, Paul refers to those who are guilty of “...Handling the Word of God deceitfully.” (Amplified “adulterate or handle dishonestly the Word of God.”)
- 2Co 4:2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
- b. **In Ephesians 4:14** Paul speaks of those, who in relation to doctrine, use “sleight of men and cunning craftiness whereby they lie and wait to deceive. (Amplified – “cunning and cleverness and unscrupulous men, who are ever shifting in forms of trickery and inventing errors to mislead”)
- c. **In 11 Peter 3:16**; Peter also refers to these men as those who are unlearned and unstable and wrest the Scripture to their own destruction (distort and misinterpret the Scriptures to their own destruction.)
- d. **11 Timothy 3:7**; Those who are “ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth”. These are those who willfully and deliberately interpret the Scriptures falsely, thus damning their own souls and the souls of those who follow them.
3. **True Interpreters**: In Luke 24, Jesus is revealed to us as the perfect interpreter. Verse 27 says, “He expounded (Greek – interpreted) unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” He is THE Interpreter; one among a thousand (Job 33:23). Job 33:23; If there be

a messenger with him, an interpreter, one among a thousand, to shew unto man his uprightness:

- a. **The True Scripture Interpreter is,** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (11 Timothy 2:15).

Joh 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. **A True Interpreter must be born of the Water and of the Spirit.**

- a. It is impossible for anyone to see or understand the things of the Kingdom of God and the plan of redemption unless he is born again.
- b. A person that is not born of the Water and of the Spirit cannot comprehend or interpret the Word which was produced by the Spirit
- c. The interpreters of the Word we must be guided in their interpretation by the same Spirit that inspired by those who wrote it.
- d. Jesus told Nicodemus which was a teacher in Israel, he still needed to be born from above.

Joh 3:10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

Luk 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Eph 1:18 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,

2. **The Interpreter Must Have a Passionate Hunger for the Word of God.**

- a. **The First evidence of birth is hunger**, (Sincere milk of the Word). There must be an intense desire to know God through His Word. This must be a primary importance to the interpreter. (That I may know Him.)
 - b. Job Said (Job 23:12). “I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.”
 - c. David Said (Psalm 119:47). “And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.”
 - d. Jeremiah Said (Jeremiah 15:16) “Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.
3. **The Interpreter Must Possess an Attitude of Humility**: Pride and arrogance bring spiritual blindness, making the discovery of the true meaning of God’s Word impossible. The religious leaders of Christ’s day were haughty and proud. Though holding the Scriptures in their hands, they were blind to the true interpretation. They rejected and crucified the very Christ to which the Scriptures pointed (Acts 13:27).
 - a. The Scriptures exhort us to possess “lowliness of mind” (Philip 2:3).
 - b. Humility of mind (Acts 20:19).
 - c. “receive with meekness the engrafted word” (James 1:21).
 4. **The Interpreter Must Possess an Attitude of Reverence and Respect for the Word of God**.
 - a. One of the greatest safeguards against mishandling the Word of Truth is to maintain a **wholesome reverence for God’s Word**; it was “God-breathed.”
 - b. **David said**, “Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments” (Psalm 119:6).
 5. **The Interpreter Must Accept the Total Inspiration of the Scriptures**:

- a. **According to Paul in 11 Timothy 3:16**, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God...” The Holy Spirit inspired the Word; it was “God Breathed.” The Holy Ghost breathed into human vessels the very thoughts and words He wanted written. The Word flowed through those human channels involving, but not violating, their emotions, education, experiences, and personalities.
- b. **Ye the Holy Spirit guarded and preserved each phrase, thought, and word from any error, omission, or inaccuracy.**

2Pe 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

2Pe 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

- C. **If the interpreter does not accept the total inspiration of the Scriptures, it will be impossible for him to properly interpret them.**

6. **The interpreter Must Approach the Word of God in Faith:**

- a. Hebrews 11:3 “Through faith we understand” Reason alone cannot perceive and grasp the Divine communication. It is unfortunate to have eyes and not see, ears and not hear; a heart and yet not perceive. The religious leaders of that day, depended on reason alone they could not comprehend the sayings of Christ.
- b. Faith brings understanding to the heart which reason alone, could not acquire.

Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

- 7. **The Interpreter Needs a Renewed Mind:** The Carnal mind is at enmity with God and is not subject to His law. It cannot understand the things of the Spirit of God. Only the regenerated mind can feel at home in the Scriptures.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

8. **The Interpreter Needs to Depend Upon the Holy Spirit's Illumination:**

- a. Revelation: Truth Given
- b. Inspiration: Truth Recorded
- c. Illumination: Truth received and revealed

The believer today simply receives illumination of the revelation given by inspiration.

Illumination is: The supernatural opening of the understanding to receive that which is revealed in Scripture.

We must be led by the Spirit for it is his ministry to lead us into all truth