

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT DISPENSATIONALISM?

Part Six: August 19, 2020

The Four Foundational Pillars of Dispensationalism

- **Progressive revelation**
- **Literal interpretation of Scripture**
- **Distinction between _____ and the Church**
- _____ **eschatology**

Progressive Revelation

- **Basic Definition:**
 - *“Progressive revelation is the recognition that God’s message to man was not given in one single act but was unfolded in a _____ of successive acts and through the minds and hands of many men of varying backgrounds....In this unfolding there are distinguishable _____ of revelation when God introduces new things for which man becomes responsible. These stages are...dispensations in the unfolding of His purpose.”*
 - Ryrie, *Dispensationalism*, pp. 36-39
- **Important Question:**
 - Does the Old Testament speak at length about the Church, or was the Church a “_____ parenthesis” in Old Testament prophecy?
- **Biblical Discussion:**
 - _____ mention of the Church
 - Matt. 16:18: _____
 - “Will build” = _____ tense
 - _____ of the Church
 - Required the _____ of the Holy Spirit
 - 1 Cor. 12:13: _____
 - Acts 1:5: _____
 - Started with ministry of the _____ and prophets
 - Eph 2:19-20: _____
 - Began after Christ’s _____ into heaven
 - Eph. 4:7-12: _____
 - _____ of the Church—
 - Eph. 3:1-10:
 - (Vs. 2) dispensation = administration (of grace)
 - (Vs. 3) mystery = truth hidden in OT, _____ in NT

- (Vs. 5) not made known in past _____
- (Vs. 6) Jews and Gentiles in one _____ (the church)
- (Vs. 9-10) hid in God from beginning so that not even the _____ understood it beforehand
- Col. 1:24-27:
 - (Vs. 24) the body of Christ and the church are one in the _____ (see also vs. 18).
 - (Vs. 25) our word ~~dispensation~~ again
 - (Vs. 26) mystery = _____ of Jews and Gentiles in one body, the church, and the means by which this unity is possible:
 - (Vs. 27) _____ in you (the indwelling Spirit of Christ)

Literal Interpretation

- **Basic Definition:**

- Literal interpretation is the attempt “to employ principles of plain, normal, or historical-grammatical interpretation _____” to the Scriptures.
 - Ryrie, *Dispensationalism*, p. 24.

- **Important Question:**

- Are we free to interpret large sections of Scripture as _____ or symbolism?
 - Allegory = “a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden _____, typically a moral or political one.”(Oxford)
 - Example: *Pilgrim’s _____* by John Bunyan

- **Principles of Proper Interpretation:**

- Plenary, _____ inspiration—
 - Prov. 30:5-6: _____
 - Plenary = _____
 - Verbal = words
- No private interpretation—
 - 2 Pet. 1:20-21: _____
 - Private interpretation = personal, individual explanation, disclosure
 - Not of human _____, and therefore, not subject to human _____ or imaginative interpretations
- _____ approach to interpretation—
 - Plenary, verbal:
 - Matt. 5:18: _____
 - Matt. 4:4: _____

- Literal, _____
 - Matt. 19:4-6: _____
- _____
 - Matt. 22:29-32: _____
 - Teaching based on the _____ of the verb, “to be.”
- Rules of literal interpretation—
 - Literal = _____, normal sense of the words
 - The Bible does contain _____ of speech, symbolism, and even allegories, but in general:
 - *“If the plain sense makes _____, seek no other sense.”*
 - Helpful questions to ask:
 - Literal—*“If I were reading this passage for the first time without any preconceived _____, what does it seem to be saying?”*
 - Historical—*“What would it have meant to the people to whom it was originally _____?”*
 - If you consistently interpret Scripture literally, you will be a _____.
 - *“Thou shalt understand, therefore, that the scripture hath but one sense, which is the _____ sense. And that literal sense is the root and ground of all, and the anchor that never faileth, whereunto if thou cleave, thou canst never err or go out of the way. And if thou _____ the literal sense, thou canst not but go out of the way...”*
 - William _____, *The Obedience of a Christian Man*

Conclusion

- **What is your _____ to the Word of God?**
 - Not just in interpretation, but _____?
 - Are you _____ by every word of God?