

Waiting in Hope Causes Confusion – Part 2

Introduction and Review

- Last week we considered how the desire to know more about the future has caused great CONFUSION [When/What].
- We considered 3 major areas of confusion: views regarding time, the rapture of believers & the millennium.
- We also considered 2 major areas of confidence: God is truthful (Is. 65:16; Jn. 14:6, 16-17) & God is faithful (1Co. 10:13; 1Jn. 1:9).
- Why is this subject matter important to us? (Pr. 23:7).

I. Accurate Interpretation is Essential

A. Definition

Exegesis is the process of discovering the meaning of the text in its original context – Neh. 8:7-8. Hermeneutics (ἑρμηνεία) is the capacity to study, understand & interpret the Scriptures – 1Co. 14:26.

B. Principle

This technique involves two steps: 1) Determine the meaning of the text for the author or original recipients (exegesis) & 2) Determine the meaning for readers today (hermeneutics). Error in interpretation leads to error in application – CONFUSION!

C. Examples

- *Futurist – desiring to know specific timing about Christ’s return in order to be ready leads to confusion (1Th. 5:1-2). The “day of the Lord” involves both Christ’s return in judgment & the rapture (5:3; 4:13-18). Christians do not need more details or “light” beyond Scripture (5:1, 4-5). Worldliness can be a strong temptation for futurists (Col. 4:14; 2Tim. 4:10).*
- *Preterist – reaching radical conclusions from difficult texts & other sources leads to confusion (2Th. 2:1-4). Beware of any prophetic teaching that is inconsistent with the clear teaching of Scripture & based on difficult texts (v. 2a, 3a). Idleness & verbal debates can be a strong temptation for preterists (2Th. 3:6-11; 2Tim. 2:14-19).*

Error in interpretation leads to error in application – CONFUSION.

II. Accurate Interpretation is Encouraging

A. Live in light (1Th. 5:5-11)

Light represents purity, truth, blessing & all that is holy. Believers can see, know & discern truth from error/lie (v. 5). Believers live spiritually alert lives in faith, hope & love (v. 8). Believers know our future is secure in Christ (v. 9-10). Believers encourage one another with true eschatology (v. 11).

B. Stand firm in truth (2Th. 2:13-17)

Believers can stand firm in our personal salvation that came to us from God (v. 13-14) – chose, saved, sanctified, called, to obtain the glory... Because our salvation is based on accurate teaching, we can stand firm in accurate teaching for our future/eschatology (v. 15). Prayer for each other is a

significant aspect of our encouragement in life (v. 16-17) – for accurate interpretation & application of the Scriptures.

Interpretation in light & truth leads to application in light & truth - ENCOURAGEMENT.

CONCLUSION

Therefore my beloved brothers & sisters I ask you, “Are you confused regarding eschatology?” Are you indifferent regarding eschatology? Do you find yourself gravitating toward extreme/radical teaching about the future? Is worldliness & materialism a major problem/temptation for you? Do you find yourself idle & indifferent with your commit to work, ministry, relationship or church life? Are you prone to verbal debates about strange & radical doctrines? If you see some or perhaps all of these traits in your life, then listen to Paul’s exhortation. Every Christian is a child of light; truth, purity & blessing. God the Father has already determined your destiny of a glorious salvation & future. Jesus Christ is your Savior, Mediator, Shepherd, sympathetic High Priest & Friend. The Holy Spirit lives in you & will guide you into all truth. So live in the light of the Lord, stand firm in the truth & do not wander from sound teaching. Stay very close to Jesus in prayer, meditation & fellowship. And remember that Christ is the center of our future, so we will keep our eyes fixed on Him as we continue to study eschatology!

If you are not a Christian & have not been born again, you can become a child of God too. You can come into the family of God & His great kingdom. Ask Jesus to save you; to forgive your sins; to make you a child of God; to make you a citizen in the kingdom of God. Trust Him today!

SUBJECT: [Waiting in Hope Causes Confusion – Part 2](#)

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