

## Beyond Mere Words

### Wk8: Q&A

#### Recap wk1-7

1. Enter reading your Bible with the expectation that you will encounter God, hear his words, and with a willingness to allow the Holy Spirit to change your mind and heart.
2. Read patiently (read not to master the text, but to be mastered by it).
3. Read the books of the Bible as they are and as a whole.
4. Read each book of the Bible as in conversation with the broader collection of text (i.e. the Canon).
5. Prioritize the text of Scripture. (The best reading and understanding of any text is going to be rooted in the Scriptures).
6. Consider the genre of literature and its unique literary elements.
7. The work of reading and interpreting the Scriptures is not to uncover new meaning about the event, but to understand the meaning the inspired text provides.
8. The meaning of any text is the communicative action of the author. (The central communicative action of Scripture concerns Jesus).
9. Read the Bible in light of Jesus.
  - a. How does this foreshadow the life of Jesus or fulfilled in the life of Jesus?
  - b. What does this mean in light of the cross?
  - c. What is Christian about my reading of this passage? How has Jesus changed the meaning and application of this?
  - d. Who am I in relation to Jesus revealed in this passage? Who do I need to be? / What do I need to do?
10. Read as a means to enter into relationship with God, listen to him, and live out his Word in our day and in our way.

#### FINAL Q&A

##### Is There Meaning In The Text?

1. **Hermeneutical Non-realism:** human language and thoughts do not correspond to objective realities or to stable meanings. What I find in the text is a matter of what I bring to it (e.g. culture, history, personal biases and ideologies). Because of all of these factors no two people can ever come to the same interpretation. Ultimately this leads to a form of Reader Response Hermeneutics (e.g. what the text means is what it means to you).
  - a. Atheism –there is no meaning
  - b. Polytheism –there are many different aims of interpretation and many different points of view
2. **Hermeneutical Realism:** the view that meaning is prior to and independent of the process of interpretation. A Hermeneutical Realist is some who believes meaning is 'mind' independent. Even when I'm not thinking about the meaning the meaning still exists. One does not create meaning, but discovers it. We might call this hermeneutic as Authorial Intent (i.e. what did the author intend mean by writing this).
  - a. Dogmatism –only one textual meaning and one approach to textual meaning
  - b. Adequacy /Trinitarian –As each person of Trinity offers a different perspective on the one true God, so there may be a limited plurality of perspectives on meaning. While exhaustive knowledge of God is beyond our grasp, our limitations do not prevent us from saying, on the basis of God's self-communication, certain concrete things (e.g. God is love, Jesus is the only begotten son of God) or from ruling other things out (e.g. love is God, Jesus was merely human). Vanhoozer, 161

##### Who is the author? What is an author? And what does it have to do with authority?

1. The author is the one whose action determines the meaning of the text.
  - a. Who writes meaning into the text?
  - b. Author or Reader
2. The search for meaning in any text is inherently theological.
  - a. Derrida agrees with Nietzsche that since there is no God or God's-eye-point-of-view, then it is up to human beings to impose 'meaning' and 'order' on the world.
    - i. Deconstruction is linked to the question of hermeneutical realism vs. non-realism.
    - ii. Deconstruction: truth claims are power claims. Therefore, deconstruction is trying to reveal the ulterior motives of the (human) author so they can ultimately reject the text.
  - b. We believe in order to understand.
    - i. We first believe that God is a communicative being, and that communication is covenantal and relational.
    - ii. Without communicative ability communion is impossible.
3. There is a direct connection between author and authority.
  - a. The 'author' determines the meaning.
  - b. The 'death of God' thus becomes death of author, which is ultimately death of Hermeneutical Realism (i.e. denial that the author has the right to dictate the meaning of their work).
  - c. To say that the Bible is authoritative is to assert that God (the divine author) has giving the text meaning and purpose.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### **WEEK 1: BIBLE & CANON**

F. F. Bruce, The Canon of Scripture  
Graeme Goldsworthy, Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics  
J. Duvall, J. Hays, Grasping God's Word  
John Sailhamer, How We Got the Bible  
N.T. Wright, Scripture and the Authority of God

### **WEEK 2: TEXT & EVENT**

Graeme Goldsworthy, Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics  
John Sailhamer, The Pentateuch As Narrative  
Kevin Vanhoozer, Is There Meaning In This Text?

### **WEEK 3: JESUS & THE NEW TESTAMENT INTERPRETERS**

G. K. Beale, The Right Doctrine From the Wrong Texts?  
Graeme Goldsworthy, Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics  
James DeYoung, Sarah Hurty, Beyond The Obvious

### **WEEK 4: TYPOLOGY & ALLEGORY**

G. K. Beale, The Right Doctrine From the Wrong Texts?  
Graeme Goldsworthy, Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics  
James DeYoung, Sarah Hurty, Beyond The Obvious  
John O'Keefe, R. Reno, Sanctified Vision  
Michael Williams, How to Read the Bible through the Jesus Lens

### **WEEK 5: LEARNING TO READ & LISTEN**

Howard Hendricks, William Hendricks, Living By The Book  
Scott McKnight, Rethink How You Read The Bible

### **WEEK 6: GENRE SPECIFICS**

Gordon Fee, Douglas Stuart, How To Read the Bible For All Its Worth  
Howard Hendricks, William Hendricks, Living By The Book  
J. Duvall, J. Hays, Grasping God's Word

### **WEEK 7: DISCERNING & DOING THE WORD**

Howard Hendricks, William Hendricks, Living By The Book  
James DeYoung, Sarah Hurty, Beyond The Obvious  
Kevin Vanhoozer, Is There Meaning In This Text?