



“Introduction: What Does It Mean?”

2 Peter 1:16-21, 2 Timothy 2:14-18

Sunday | June 25th, 2017 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

2 Peter 1:16-21
2 Timothy 2:14-18

(See also 2 Tim. 3:16)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[Andreas J. Kostenberger] “Come on in, and stay awhile! Make yourself at home, and acquire vital skills in understanding the most important book ever written—the Holy Scriptures. The volume you are holding in your hands [Kostenberger’s book] invites you to embark on the quest of sound biblical interpretation or as it is also called, ‘hermeneutics.’ As in Jesus’ parable of the wedding feast, the invitation goes out to all who care to listen. And as in Jesus’ parable, the terms are not set by those invited but by the one who issues the invitation and by the book to be interpreted.

In our quest to understand the Bible, author, text, and reader each have an important part to play. Every document has an author, and the resulting text is shaped by his or her intent. It is this authorial intention the interpreter must aim to recover. The text is not ‘just there,’ left to be interpreted any way a given reader chooses... The text of Scripture... Is not neutral, that is malleable to a great variety of interpretations that lay equal claim to represent valid readings of a given passage (as is common in various postmodern, reader-response approaches to biblical interpretation). Nor is the text autonomous, that is, a law unto itself, as if it existed apart from the author who willed and wrote it into being (as is held by various narrative or literary approaches). It is an authorially shaped and designed product that requires careful and respectful interpretation.”¹

¹ Andreas J. Kostenberger, *Invitation to Biblical Interpretation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2011), p. 57, 58.

DISCUSS

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:16. What does it mean to you? Just kidding! What does it mean? Discuss.

2. J. I. Packer says that we were made to know God.² Do you agree? Why or why not?
3. How do you respond to the idea that God is knowable? How does that make you feel?
4. How is God known? Wayne Grudem rightly states, “If we are to know God at all, it is necessary that he reveal himself to us.”³ How does God reveal Himself?⁴
5. Read 2 Peter 1:16-21. What does this have to say about Scripture (i.e. “prophetic word”)? What does it suggest about our own personal experiences? Which provides the greatest certainty for the believer?
6. Pastor Patrick said reading Scripture is about listening. What did he mean? Remember that with any communication, the speaker’s intent should be the listener’s primary concern. What did Patrick mean? (See above article)
7. Walter Kaiser said, “I affirm, with all the forcefulness I can muster, that our generation needs a whole new hermeneutical reformation.” What did he mean by that? (See above article)
8. Discuss the new series. What are you looking forward to?
9. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?

²J. I. Packer, *Knowing God* (Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1993), p. 33.

³Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994), p. 149.

⁴God makes Himself known through means of General and Special Revelation. General Revelation is that which is observable about God generally (existence, power and character) by all humanity. It’s observable through creation (See Rom. 1:20, Ps. 19:1-2). Special Revelation is that which God specifically reveals to a specific people namely by speaking (i.e. using words).