



Pastor's Reflections- Thailand: Full Circle

Twenty five years ago on my first trip to Thailand I met Wandee and her

daughter Annza. Debi and I quickly fell in love with Wandee and her whole family.

A few years later Annza had 2 daughters which Debi held when they were just months old. We have prayed for and witnessed to them for years. And through series of

events and the working of God they made the decision to follow Christ a couple of years ago.

Often, missionaries never see the fruits of their prayers and labors. However, I was blessed to see my prayers and labors come full circle in Thailand. While Annza and her two daughters became followers of Christ, they had never been baptized. Last Sunday I was blessed to baptize Annza and her oldest daughter who we know as Samantha.

I hope that each of you will come to our March 5th Sunday afternoon Thailand Mission Trip presentation. It is scheduled for March 5th at 4pm. Hear the stories from those who witnessed God at work in Thailand. Hear the complete story of Annza and her daughters as well as many inspiring stories from the

Shoreline mission team.



Blessings, Pastor Ed

Article- The REAL Truth-Part I

Intro

Everyone comes to the Bible with presuppositions— preconceived ideas and beliefs. That is why it is so important to learn to interpret the Bible correctly; realizing we cannot comprehend everything. For starts you *must* know Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.

For the disciple of Jesus Luke writes in Acts 17:11 about the Bereans:

. . .for they [the Bereans] received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. 12 Therefore, many of them believed, along with a significant number of prominent Greek women and men.

What is So Special About the Bible?

God REVEALED Himself to us **three different ways**:

1st. General or Natural Revelation

God is revealed in the world; His Creation.

. . . since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse (Rom.1:19-20).

2nd. Special Revelation

Special revelation, God's Word reveals God's salvific plan. Thus it is absolutely critical that we rightly divide the Word. Everyone comes to the Bible text with presuppositions; stuff we've assumed, heard, or sang. There is overwhelming manuscript (Mss) evidence to support the biblical inerrancy.

3rd. Bodily Revelation

His Son, Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

God came to earth as a man. He came, lived, and died as one of us, but was fully God!

The Bible is God's revelation not God's riddle

Correct Interpretation of God's Word

The basis for sound Bible interpretation is known as the **literal, historical, grammatical** method of interpretation of scripture.

By **literal** we mean we believe the bible is the *inspired, inerrant, infallible*, and *authoritative* word of GOD to be taken at face value unless there is compelling reason to do otherwise (usually indicated by the context of the passage).

Historical means that each passage is put into its *proper historical setting*. We must apprehend the *thoughts, attitudes, customs, and feelings prevalent at the time of writing*.¹

Lastly **grammatical** means that words are given meanings *consistent with their common understanding* in the original language at the time of writing. What does the text say? What does it mean grammatically? What category of literature is it (poetry, narrative, etc.)?



Excavating

The Process

A quick note: In the following segments of the Bible interpretation process there is necessarily a certain amount of overlap between the segments.

1) Observation

✠ What is historical context?

¹ Marriage between siblings was necessary in the immediate post-creation era to populate the earth.

- ✚ What was the time period the author was addressing?
- ✚ Who was the audience?
 - ✚ Were they Hebrews, Romans, Gentiles, pagan, the Church, or Church leaders (Elders)?
- ✚ Who was God's chosen author?
- ✚ Why was it written? What are the facts?
 - ✚ What problem or issue was the writer addressing?
- ✚ What is the theme and the key message?
 - ✚ Was the theme God's discipline of Israel/believers or songs of praise to God?

2) Interpretation

- ✚ What is the author really saying? Getting the meaning the author poured into the text, **NOT** putting our own meaning into it.
- ✚ Ask **what the text says**, **BEFORE** you ask **what it means**.
- ✚ Don't allegorize or spiritualize the text:

When the literal sense makes good sense, seek no other sense, lest you end up with nonsense

- ✚ *Sensus unum*—there is only **one** meaning; **one** correct interpretation to the text.
 - ✚ If two people have opposite interpretations to a passage, **both** could be wrong, but **both cannot be right—only one can be correct!**
- ✚ There can be multiple applications to the text, but **NOT** multiple meanings.

Structure

- ✚ We err greatly if we approach the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation and everything in between, with the same set of reading expectations for each distinct books.
- ✚ The Books of Moses (the Pentateuch) reads markedly different than the poetic genre of Psalms. The books of Kings are demonstrably different than Paul's letters to the Church.
- ✚ The Bible is a library of 66 books covering an entire range of literary genres, or categories, including:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| ✚ History | ✚ Narrative |
| ✚ Poetry | ✚ Inspirational |
| ✚ Biographical | ✚ Prophecy |

3) Application

- ✚ Are the passages applicable today in our culture?
- ✚ Are they meant for Israel or for the Church?
 - ✚ Is the segment studied *prescriptive* for us or merely *descriptive*? Example: God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, his only son (Gen. 22). Clearly this account just *describes* the event and it is not meant for any other time or place. Indeed this is a "type" of what God would do by sending Jesus to die for us.

D. D. Edwards

Bible- *But if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel . . . (2 Corinthians 4:3-4 CSB).*

The quality of your interpretation ALWAYS depends on the quality of your observation.



Erecting

