Pastor’s Notes

August, 2024

There is a theological term used by the avid bible interpreter. The term is *Hermeneutics.* It’s one of those stuffy terms thrown around by seminary instructors more than needed and one of those terms that has a fancy name, but involves a simple concept. It is a set of rules to follow helping us find the true meaning of a particular scripture.

Saint Augustine ( 354-430 ) was by far the greatest man of his age in regards to *Western Hermeneutics.* He is still a role model for biblical study. In his book on Christian doctrine, he laid down a number of rules we can all benefit from even today. The rules are simple. I’ve translated them, but their meaning is in tact.

* 1. The interpreter must possess a genuine Christian Faith and rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance.
* 2. The literal and historical meaning of Scripture should be held in high regard.
* 3. Scripture has more than one meaning, and therefore the allegorical method is the proper one. (look up allegory)
* 4. Significance inheres in biblical numbers. (numbers have meanings)
* 5. The Old Testament is a Christian document because Christ is featured throughout it.
* 6. The task of the interpreter is to understand the true meaning and not bring their own meaning to the text.
* 7. The interpreter must consult the true orthodox creed of the period.
* 8. A verse should be studied in it’s context, not in isolation from other verses around it.
* 9. If the meaning of the text is still unclear, don’t base your faith on what you think it may mean.
* 10. Study the passage in the common vernacular of the period. (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic?)
* 11. Never rely on an obscure passage as doctrine.
* 12. Re-read the passage after a few days and see it you come to the same conclusion.

I pray this will help those that have a desire to understand more fully the word of God.

Blessings to you,

Pastor Will