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BIB331: Hermeneutics: OA

Professor: Timothy Keiderling

1. Are there any similarities between the two approaches? Any differences?

There are similarities and differences between the approaches of the two authors. The first author gave an in-depth explanation for the need for a reasonable interpretation of the word of God. He encourages us to “get the plain meaning”, of the text by understanding “what was said back then” and to hear the word for the here and now. This method calls for careful reading of the text and provokes us to ask two questions how does the text relate to context and content.

They are both similar because they both encourage us to read the bible through the historical approach. However, the second author seems to view the historical approach as the ideal way for the true understanding of Biblical text interpretation. This view calls for us to read the Bible independently of religious opinions, not just accept what has been interpreted uncritically.

The differences are also very distinguishable, for instance, the second author encourages us to investigate the intersection of the secular and ancient perspectives and where they diverge. The author also placed high emphasis on Jewish scholarship. The first author's approach is to ensure that we learn the tools to understand the real meaning of what and how we can properly understand the text for ourselves and the people we serve.

2. How do these two authors treat the Bible? What is the Bible for them?

After reading both texts I believe both authors see the Bible as a book that should be read properly and in the right context. They both shared the complexity but also the wonder of the Bible. They also shared the love of the historical context of the book, which should be applied when reading text. I prefer the first approach because it encourages one to read the text to apply it to the here and now. For both the Bible is a book that should be interpreted correctly. There is an excitement when they both talked about their approach to uncovering the truth of God's word.