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NT615 Who Needs Hermeneutics Anyway? – Ch. 1

QUESTIONS

1. What is the essential Biblical prerequisite for understanding the things of God?
2. In what two areas do we find challenges in interpreting the Bible?
3. What does Silva consider to be the great prerequisite for true Biblical understanding?
4. What are the four main models for understanding the Bible?
5. What facts suggest that God's message to us is consistent?

Answers

1. Having the Spirit of God
2. Language and History
3. The desire to keep God's commandments and the determination to do God's will.
4. The proof-text, historical-critical, reader-response, and syntactical-theological methods
5. The fact that Christians know the truth, and they should not let anyone lead them astray.

TERMS

Hermeneutics: the discipline that deals with principles of Biblical and literary text interpretation

Grammatico-Historical exegesis: interpretation of the Bible based on a language and cultural context analysis

Contextualization: a term that is sometimes used to emphasize our need to see the relevance of a passage in our context

SUMMARY

The Bible is a divine yet a human book that many people wrote. It was not written in English, although it has been translated into English. The Bible is far removed from us in place and time, and the language often makes translation difficult. Our cultural experiences bring us to the text with preconceived ideas of what we believe. Our understanding of the English language today sometimes interferes with the meaning of the exact words included in the scriptures.

Hermeneutics allows us to interpret Biblical principles and the literary text better, thereby reducing the potential for misinterpretation. Correct exegesis of the text brings us closer to appropriately applying the text to our lives which is how we grow closer in our spiritual walk with the Savior.