NT 615 - 5-3-1 – *Fee & Stuart, Ch 1 & 2*

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Questions:
1. What is the aim of good interpretation?
2. What is the dual nature of Scripture that creates tension in the interpretation of the Bible?
3. What are the two kinds of questions one should ask of every biblical passage?
4. What is the best theory for the translation of the Bible?
5. What are some of the common problems of historical distance in translation?

Answers:
1. The aim of good interpretation is simple – to get at the "plain meaning of the text," the author's intended meaning.
2. The Bible has eternal relevance, which speaks to all mankind, in every age, and in every culture. The Bible also has a historical particularity, in which each document is conditioned by the language, time, and culture in which it was originally written.
3. The two kinds of questions one should ask are those that relate to context and those that relate to content.
4. Fee and Stuart believe that the best theory of translation is the one that remains as faithful as possible to both the original and receptor languages, but that when something has to "give," it should be in favor of the receptor language, without losing the meaning of the original language, of course, since the very reason for translation is to make these ancient texts accessible to the English-speaking person who does not know the original languages.
5. Common problems include weights, measures, money, euphemism, vocabulary, wordplays, grammar, syntax, and matters of gender.

Terms:
1. Exegesis: the careful, systematic study of the Scripture to discover the original, intended meaning
2. Formal equivalence: the attempt to keep as close to the "form" of Hebrew or Greek, both words and grammar, as can be conveniently put into understandable English; often described as "literal"
3. Functional equivalence: the attempt to keep the meaning of the Hebrew or Greek but to put their words and idioms into what would be the normal way of saying the same thing in English; often described as "dynamic equivalence"

Summary:
The introductory chapter on *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* explains the need to interpret Scripture due to the tension of eternal relevance and historical particularity. In the process of interpretation, we find the meaning in the original context, and then we articulate the contemporary relevance. In chapter two, we see three broad ways of translation: 1) formal equivalence, 2) dynamic equivalence, and 3) free translation. Dynamic equivalence is most profitable as the main source of reading and study, but

formal equivalence and free translation are encouraged as second sources to strengthen and stimulate thinking about the meaning of the text.