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NT615 Introduction: The Need to Interpret & The Basic Tool: A Good Translation – Ch. 1 and 2

QUESTIONS

1. List two types of communication used by God to reveal his word to all human conditions.
2. Identify the two tensions that demand an interpretation of the Bible.
3. What two levels are required for Biblical interpretation?
4. What is the first step in reading EVERY text?
5. What is the minimum amount of outside help needed to perform a good exegesis?

ANSWERS

1. Laws of all kinds and parables
2. eternal relevance and historical particularity
3. Exegesis (hearing and understanding the word as given back then and there), and hermeneutics (hearing and understanding the same word in the here and now)
4. Exegesis
5. A good translation, a good Bible dictionary, and a good commentary

TERMS

Historical Particularity: Each Biblical document is conditioned by the language, time, and culture in which it was originally written, and sometimes by the oral history prior to writing.

Variant: place where manuscripts differ

Textual criticism: a science with careful controls that uses external and internal evidence in making textual choices

SUMMARY

Interpretation is performed daily in communication with one another and is often the reason for misunderstandings. Cultural backgrounds and perceived intent of the speaker are two main causes of failed interpretations. Due to the far distance between now and the times in which the Bible was written, as well as, the spoken languages, our communication with God's word can be misunderstood. To minimize our miscommunication, it is imperative that we perform a thorough exegesis of the text to determine what God was saying to the people then and how his words apply today. A good translator, Bible dictionary, and a good commentary are critical for beginning the exegetical process.