

Understanding the Book of Proverbs through a Law/Gospel lens

Chapter 3-BONUS!

Thinking about our reading of Proverbs and the temporal aspect of it that jumps out at us we are going to think about this today

Luke 2-how is this possible...the same way we do it all the time

Search for it like silver...Christ is the wisdom...where are we to search for Him...but we don't search much...we graze the surface and if we don't see it we are done

Lets remind ourselves of a few concepts:

1. **Perspicuity of Scripture-** The Scriptures possess a clarity so that even a child can understand the message. The truth of the Bible is understandable and can be known by all. (example of Jonah, Jesus, Adam and Eve)
2. **Sensus plenior-** This is the concept that Scripture contains a deeper meaning. A meaning that is not always understood and/or recognized by all.

These two concepts are not opposed to one another but work **together**

The LBC provides a helpful paragraph that shows the unity of these two concepts (1:7)

“All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed and observed for salvation, are so clearly propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of ordinary means, may attain to a sufficient understanding of them.”

Basic Support for these concepts:

Perspicuity of Scripture- Passages such as Psalm 19:7 & Psalm 119:13 talk about how the Scriptures make wise the **simple**, implying that one can be “simple” and come to the Scriptures and learn wisdom.

Sensus plenior- Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 2:14 that the natural man cannot accept the things of God but they must be spiritually discerned. The concept of the **illumination** of the Spirit comes into play here.

Watch out! If one of these concepts is overemphasized to the exclusion of the other a person can fall into hermeneutical **errors**. Also, there must be a correct understanding of how to use these concepts correctly.

A quick example of misusing these concepts from Proverbs 3:9-10.

Misuse of perspicuity of Scripture-This passage clearly states that if you give to the Lord you will be materially blessed...therefore give to God if you want riches.

Misuse of sensus plenior-This passage is dealing with more than material possessions but really is getting to the inner person...if you give the firstfruits of your affections and emotions to the Lord then He will heal your emotional inner-self and you will find joy in your inner-self awakening busting forth like wine.

Things to remember so that you use these concepts correctly and do not misuse them:

1. The basic rules of hermeneutics should be followed-something is being **honestly** communicated, and you should try to find out what that is
2. All of Scripture should lead us to **Christ**-so a Christological interpretation should always guide our reading
3. Remember **Soli Deo Gloria**-We should read and seek to understand the Scriptures in a way that brings glory to God alone

So, remembering these things then, as we approach Proverbs, we must remember that there is a surface meaning (temporal blessing) but I would argue that this is not the **primary** way we should understand the book of Proverbs. The temporal aspect of Proverbs should be acknowledged but it should take a backseat to seeing Christ as the Wisdom and Perfect Son of Proverbs. We must search them to find Christ. God is most glorified as we behold His Son in **Scripture**.