

## Love for God and Love for His Word

- It is the conviction of the elders and I am certain the conviction of God's people here at Braidwood that all ministry by God's people must be driven by the ministry of his Word. The world does not need our opinions. The world does not need to know how I feel. The world desperately needs the Word of Christ. The world desperately needs the Gospel.
- God's people, though citizens of a new country, never outgrow the Gospel. We never move beyond the Gospel, but our understanding does become more informed and more robust as God is at work in us through His Word and His Spirit.
- The goal of this study, which Lord willing will continue the last two Wednesdays of this month and then on a number of other Wednesdays throughout the remainder of this year, is to encourage in each of our lives a more robust study of all the Scriptures and a deeper walk with God. Though we will not go book by book through the Bible looking at all that Christ fulfils, we will look at some, with the hope that this better equips the saints by spurring on private study of all the Scriptures, including the OT, in the homes.

The study tonight is somewhat general as we are laying a foundation for the Old Testament as vital to the life of the Church and the Christian.

It is somewhat introductory, but hopefully it will be an encouragement to dive into all of God's Word.

## Jesus Christ In All The Scriptures

“The relationship of Jesus Christ to the Word of God in Scripture is that he sums it up, brings it to fulfillment and interprets it. Thus, the *Word of God* is Jesus Christ. Every word in Scripture points to Jesus and finds its meaning in him. Furthermore, John 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:16 tell us that Jesus Christ is the eternal Word of God by which the universe was created. These two passages indicate that his saving work in the world was not an afterthought because of sin, but was the eternal purpose of God. It was the plan of God before creation and from all eternity. Upon this plan God created all things.”

Graeme Goldsworthy, *According To Plan* (p59-60)

I have entitled this little series, Jesus Christ In All The Scriptures. Let's begin with a quote from Graeme Goldsworthy.

## God's Plan / Word of God (cont'd)

“If we can imagine God drawing up the plans for the universe before he created it, and if we could examine these plans, we would not see Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, but Jesus Christ in the gospel.

The significance of this is worth repeating: Jesus Christ in his life, death and resurrection is the fixed point of reference for the understanding of the whole of reality.”

“We are justified in saying that the whole Bible, including the Old Testament, is God's testimony to Christ.”

Graeme Goldsworthy, According To Plan (p60 and 62)

End Note: And this is really what my goal is tonight – that we might each go home tonight a little more encouraged that the Old Testament are not mere footnotes to the greater story of the Bible but are the root of that gospel and therefore vital for its fullness.

## Isaiah 55:10-11

<sup>10</sup> “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Turning now to Isaiah and then John, let's read what God says about His Word.

## John (Jesus as sent by and returns to God)

- John 13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had *come from God and was going back to God,*
- John 16:28 I came from the Father and have *come* into the world, and now I *am leaving* the world and going to the Father.”
- John 17:8 For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that *I came from you;* and they have believed that you sent me.

In the book of John, we read of many instances where Jesus is seen as being sent by the Father and then that he returns to the Father having accomplished His Work (in fulfillment of that Isaiah 55 passage)

## John 17:1-4

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

<sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

## The Work of Christ

- Connecting Isaiah 55 and John, we see that Jesus, the Word of God, was sent by the Father to accomplish the purposes of the Father
- Having accomplished every purpose and succeeding in the thing for which Jesus was sent, Jesus was ready to return to His Father
- We can, and should, spend the rest of our days on earth scouring the pages of His Word to comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the love and work of Christ
- We will never exhaust this study since in John 21:25, he states, "Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."
- But we can marvel, as one picking up diamonds and examining one after another, the beauty and the majesty of all that Jesus Christ has done for His Glory and our benefit

End Note: So all Scripture is ultimately about Jesus Christ.

Let's turn to Luke 24 for Jesus on the road to Emmaus with two of his disciples.

Jesus Christ  
In All The Scriptures

Luke 24:27

And beginning with Moses and  
all the Prophets, he interpreted  
to them in all the Scriptures the  
things concerning himself.

**32** They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

The disciples on the road later run back to Jerusalem and gather with the eleven to tell of their encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

Jesus then appears to them again, with the eleven in Jerusalem.

Jesus speaks to the Eleven (Disciples) and  
the two disciples (from the road to Emmaus)

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Jesus clearly states that everything written about him in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Scriptures.

## All Scriptures Are Focused on Christ

- We have heard the Bible described in these terms:
  - The Old Testament is Jesus predicted
  - The Gospels are Jesus arrived
  - The Acts of the Apostles is Jesus preached
  - The Epistles are Jesus explained
  - The Revelation is Jesus coming again

This is somewhat simplistic, and helpful as far as it goes, **but more importantly we need to grasp that without the Old Testament we could not know Jesus properly.**

End Note: Let's turn to John 5 to consider from Jesus' perspective how important it was for a person to understand Him from the Scriptures, but particularly with the eyes of faith, seeing that He was and is the fulfillment of it all, that Moses had been writing about Jesus all along.

## John 5:31-47

<sup>31</sup>If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true.<sup>32</sup> There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. <sup>33</sup>You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. <sup>34</sup>Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. <sup>35</sup>He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. <sup>36</sup>But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. <sup>37</sup>And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, <sup>38</sup>and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent.

## John 5:31-47 (cont'd)

<sup>39</sup>You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, <sup>40</sup> yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. <sup>41</sup> I do not receive glory from people. <sup>42</sup> But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. <sup>43</sup> I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. <sup>44</sup> How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? <sup>45</sup> Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. <sup>46</sup> For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. <sup>47</sup> But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

## Four Witnesses

Studying the Scriptures and Finding Jesus, Albert Mohler Jr. (2013)

- In this passage, Jesus sets out four witnesses to those who refuse to believe and receive him: John the Baptist (v. 32-35), Jesus's Works (v. 36), The Father (v. 37-38), and The Scriptures (v. 39)
- It is commendable and appropriate to "search the Scriptures", but what we see here is that people can devote their lives to searching the Scriptures yet miss the point and not be saved.
- "The entire Scriptures – and Jesus was referring specifically to the Old Testament - bear witness to Jesus. In other words, Jesus said, in effect, "You cannot read those words without reading of me. You cannot read the Law without reading of me. You cannot read the History without reading of me. You cannot read the Psalms without reading of me. You cannot read the Prophets without reading of me." (Albert Mohler Jr. (2013))
- **"It is they that bear witness about me."**

## Four Witnesses (cont'd)

“The Old Testament includes the gospel. Jesus is present in the Old Testament, not merely when speaking of Moses in a text like the following: "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him" (Deut. 18:18); but also in **all** that Moses wrote and in **all** that the prophets have said. Jesus is present in **all** the Scriptures.”

Studying the Scriptures and Finding Jesus, Albert Mohler Jr. (2013)

## Their Problem

- Their “missing the point” was not an intellectual problem. It was not a lack of knowledge. Rather their problem was moral, theological, & spiritual.
- The people refused to see and Jesus indicted them for this: “you refuse to come to me”; “you do not receive me”; “you... do not seek the glory that comes from the only God”.
- Jesus accused them for their refusal to hear and believe what Jesus was telling them and their refusal to believe what the Scriptures had taught them.

## The Cure: Return to Luke 24

<sup>25</sup> And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

- Rebuke: “slow of heart to believe”;
- Cure: “And beginning with ... concerning himself”;
- Blessing (v. 32): “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”
- Our Prayer: That God would open our eyes to the Gospel in All the Scriptures!

Now the Cure to the problem of a refusal to see Jesus is that Jesus Himself would interpret all the Scriptures to us. That Jesus would speak to us as we read His Word and bring it alive for us. Consider Luke 24:25-37:

## How the New Testament Quotes the Old Testament

- There is a diversity of ways that the New quotes the Old Testament:
  - Analogy;
  - Direct prediction;
  - Word-association;
  - Appeal to common theological themes;
  - Typology (i.e. a pattern, such as “an institution or person, place, thing gets repeated and repeated and ratcheted up until you expect there to be something bigger that brings the pattern to a climax” (D.A. Carson on Psalm 110, Getting Excited About Melchizedek))

Now I have some very introductory comments on how we look at the New Testament and Old Testament. For instance, How the NT quotes the OT.

## Definitions

- First Task is Exegesis: the careful, systematic study of the Scripture to discover the original, intended meaning (basically a historical task).
- It is an attempt to hear the Word as the original recipients were to have heard it, to find out what *was the original intent of the words of the Bible*.
- Consider the historical context, the literary context (genre), and then the content itself
- Second Task: Hermeneutics

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart

Exegesis is typically done by scholars and we can glean the fruit of their labours in various commentaries on the Bible.

End Note: How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth as well as (next slide) Old Testament Exegesis

## Definitions

- Hermeneutics: the theory of understanding a passage's meaning
- The delicate task of the interpreter is to be sure that everything the passage means is brought out but that nothing additional is read into the passage
- Hermeneutics properly applied is thus interested in the boundaries of interpretation – the upper and lower limits – that are intended by the Spirit of God for the reader.

Old Testament Exegesis, Douglas Stuart (2008)

## Every Reader is an Interpreter, so there is a Need to Interpret Properly

- We invariably bring to the text all that we are, with all of our experiences, culture, and prior understanding of words and ideas;
- The aim of good interpretation is not uniqueness; one is not trying to discover what no one else has ever seen before;
- The aim of good interpretation is simple: to get at the “plain meaning of the text”, for the “plain meaning” is the “main meaning”;
- Every imaginable heresy/practice claims to be “supported” by a text
- The antidote to bad interpretation is not no interpretation but good interpretation, based on commonsense guidelines

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart

A text cannot mean what it never meant; put positively, the true meaning of the biblical text for us is what God originally intended it to mean when it was first spoken.

End Note: this last comment is key for us as we seek out to interpret God’s Word.

It is also worth noting that we interpret God’s Word whether we recognize that we are doing so or not.

The way to interpret (explain the meaning of, make understandable) the New Testament is by using the words, phrases, types, etc. found in the Old Testament

- Matt 1:1 “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”
- To understand the birth of Jesus, we must begin much earlier with David and Abraham
- David: God promised a Kingdom that spread without limit and lasted without end
- Abraham: God promised to bless all the families of the earth in Abraham

After heading: consider Kirk Wellum as he goes through Revelation. Again and again we return to words or phrases in Daniel. Last Sunday, it was understanding Jesus as Son of Man.

## Moralizing: the assumption that principles for living can be derived from all passages

- Moralizing is not the redemptive purpose of the text.
- We cannot please God through moral improvement – moralizing cannot save.
- For example, it is not wrong to see David as a boy who demonstrates courage because of his faith in God (when determining to fight Goliath). The problem is in missing the greater point. David was God's anointed – the king whose dynasty would never end. This content points directly to King Jesus, seated on David's throne – the one who is prophet, priest, and king. We must focus on how it testifies of Christ – the redemptive purpose of the text.

Again, there is nothing wrong with taking moral lessons from the Bible, but this is not the main purpose of the Old Testament texts.

## Matt 1:22-23

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us).

- The ‘prophet’ here is Isaiah (7:4)
- In addition to being the One who will bless and rule the whole world, Jesus is also
  - the Son of virgin birth and, amazingly,
  - God himself come to dwell or tabernacle with us

## Beginning of the Other Gospel Accounts

Mark 1:1-3

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way,

<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

Mark’s Gospel Account sends us back to Malachi and Isaiah to see and understand Jesus as the Lord himself come to his temple (Mal 3:1), as the preacher of the word of consolation (Isa 40:1), and as the divine Lord (Isa 40:3) with a message for ‘all flesh’ (Isa 40:5) and heralded by the foretold ‘Elijah.’

## John 1:1-5

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

- John takes us back to the beginning: Genesis / Creation
- Jesus is God, having eternal fellowship with God the Father; He is the incarnate Word of God through whom all things were made. Jesus is the source of life and light.

And so we see that these gospel accounts point back, again and again, to Christ in the Old Testament. I hope that this has been an encouragement for you. It was a blessing for me preparing for tonight.

Closing: That is as far as we are going to journey tonight. In two weeks we will pick up some more with some more of a foundation on God's Word and the Old Testament in particular with a build up for Passover / Easter on the final Wednesday of the month.

Slides will be put up on the website at some point. Questions?

Next Wed will be a prayer night

## Resources

- The Scriptures (ESV, 2001 generally)
- According To Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible, Graeme Goldsworthy (2002)
- Loving the Old Testament, Alec Motyer (2015)
- The Scriptures Testify About Me. Jesus and the Gospel in the Old Testament, Edited by D.A. Carson (2013)
- How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart (2003)
- CHRIST in all the SCRIPTURES, A.M. Hodgkin (2004)
- The Institutes of Christian Religion, Calvin (Lane / Osborne, 1987)
  
- Chart (Slide 27): <http://restoringtheway.org/category/feasts-of-the-lord/>