

## **SECTION 1**

### **Precommitments of the Interpreter of the Bible**

**“A PORTRAIT OF THE MINISTER OF GOD”  
(2 Timothy 2:1-7)**

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| <b>I.</b>   | <b><u>BE A TEACHER</u></b>                   | <b>2:1-2</b> |
|             | 1. Know where to stand.                      | 2:1          |
|             | 2. Know what to share.                       | 2:2          |
|             | 3. Know who to send.                         | 2:2          |
| <b>II.</b>  | <b><u>BE A SOLDIER</u></b>                   | <b>2:3-4</b> |
|             | 1. Participate in conflict.                  | 2:3          |
|             | 2. Please Christ.                            | 2:4          |
| <b>III.</b> | <b><u>BE A COMPETITOR</u></b>                | <b>2:5</b>   |
|             | 1. Get into the contest.                     |              |
|             | 2. Go for the crown.                         |              |
|             | 3. Engage with care.                         |              |
| <b>IV.</b>  | <b><u>BE A FARMER</u></b>                    | <b>2:6-7</b> |
|             | 1. Accept the requirement of hard work.      | 2:6          |
|             | 2. Anticipate the reward of heavenly wisdom. | 2:7          |

## **PRECOMMITMENTS OF AN INTERPRETER OF SCRIPTURE**

### **1. COMMITMENT TO A HIGH VIEW OF SCRIPTURE. (MATT. 5:17-18; 2 TIM. 3:16-17; 2 PET. 1:20-21)**

- a. What the Bible says, God says.
- b. What God says, we must say.

### **2. CONVICTION OF THE PROFITABILITY OF ALL SCRIPTURE. (2 TIM. 3:14-17)**

- a. No one area of the Bible is any more inspired than another (i.e., The words of Jesus are no more authoritative than the words of Paul. The epistles are no more inspired than the genealogies of the Old Testament.) - (There is equal inspiration, but degrees of importance.)
- b. All interpretation and teaching, therefore, must be lashed to the Scriptures, not rooted in something else.

### **3. CALLING TO RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE WORD OF TRUTH. (2 TIM. 2:15)**

- a. If you cannot say, "this is what God says," you have nothing to say.
- b. The purpose of hermeneutics is to make clear the meaning of a passage.
  1. What the author is saying is what we are after.
  2. What difference it should make in the hearer's life is what we hope to show.
  3. Why God wants the hearer to know this is what will change lives.

### **4. COMMITMENT TO DO SOME CLEAR, HARD THINKING ABOUT WHAT SCRIPTURE MEANS AND, HOW IT APPLIES (James 1:22-25).**

- a. The interpreter must think hard and think well.
- b. He must be thorough and hard working.
- c. The interpreter must understand thinking, how thoughts work, the nature of thought itself, and how those who hear you teach will hear, understand and incorporate truth.

### **5. WILLINGNESS TO BE CONFINED TO THE INTENTION OF THE AUTHOR. (2 TIM. 4:1-5)**

- a. What he is saying is what the interpreter must say.
- b. If it is outside the author's intent, it is outside the intent of the Holy Spirit and therefore outside the realm of divine authority.

c. Authorial intent constitutes the authority of God.

**EXAMPLE:**

Is it legitimate to teach or preach on the necessity of personal witnessing from John 4 (Jesus and the woman at the well)? What is the valid meaning of John 4? The divine author's meaning is the human author's meaning is the meaning the interpreter should adopt and proclaim.

Never just teach the event. The text always carries more intent than the event. The event itself is mute. The text gives us "interpretive events" not just events.

It is legitimate to say, "This is certainly not John's primary meaning, but it certainly reminds us that..." It is not necessarily true that just because Jesus did something that it is an example for us and that we should do it. When Jesus is stated as an example, we are also told what aspect of His character is to be imitated.

(Note: those who hear you teach will ultimately treat and interpret the Scriptures in the same fashion as you. There is an awesome responsibility here (Jam. 2:1).)

***"Scripture is the foundation of the Church: the Church is the guardian of Scripture, When the Church is in strong health, the light of Scripture shines bright; when the Church is sick, Scripture is corroded by neglect; and thus it happens, that the outward form of Scripture and that of the Church, usually seem to exhibit simultaneously either health or else sickness; and as a rule the way in which Scripture is being treated is in exact correspondence with the condition of the church."***

-Walter Kaiser, *Toward an Exegetical Theology* (Quoting John Albert Bengel)

***"The Church and the Scripture stand or fall together. Either the Church will be nourished and strengthened by the bold proclamation of her Biblical texts or her health will be severely impaired." "Should the ministry of the [word] fail, one might just as well conclude that all the supporting ministries of Christian education, counseling, community involvement, yes, even missionary and society outreach, will likewise soon dwindle, if not collapse."***

-Walter Kaiser (pgs 7-8)

## 12 PERSONAL THEOLOGICAL AFFIRMATIONS FOR THE STUDENT OF SCRIPTURE

1. I must do more than quote a Scripture and then depart from it; indepth study and understanding of the text is absolutely necessary.
2. The best way to teach biblical knowledge is to interpret correctly and apply personally what I have learned.
3. Both *kerygma* (preaching) and *didache* (teaching) are essential in gospel proclamation; Scripture and especially the New Testament does not maintain a clear distinction between the two.
4. Preaching and teaching God's Word is the primary responsibility of the pastor, but it is the responsibility also of every believer.
5. When biblical instruction is neglected, the people's morals become unclear and/or readily decline.
6. Throughout history God has used the dual elements of preaching and teaching to reform the church.
7. The content of Scripture must not be sacrificed for eloquence in delivery, though one can and should complement the other.
8. Since Bible study is waning, the laity must be trained how to study the Bible on their own as they imitate expository methods used by the their preachers and teachers.
9. Faithful teaching equips and inspires people to work and witness.
10. Faithful teaching demands a high view of Scripture (verbal, plenary in its inspiration).
11. Faithful teaching encourages people to bring their Bibles to church; it encourages them to read passages to be taught beforehand and to study them afterwards as well.
12. Through faithful and comprehensive teaching, important problems will be handled in a systematic fashion; sharp and uncomfortable truths are more readily accepted when addressed from the Bible in the natural course of study.

## **THE BIBLE**

This book contains: The mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrine is holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be saved and practice it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you, food to support you and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's charter.

Here, Heaven is opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the Judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward faithful labor, and condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

***'Tis the Book that has for the  
ages Lifted man from sin and  
shame; That great message  
on its pages, Will forever be  
the same.'***

Never compare the Bible with other books. Comparisons are dangerous. Books speak from earth; the Bible speaks from Heaven. Never think or say that the Bible contains the Word of God or that it becomes the Word of God. It IS the Word of God. Supernatural in origin, eternal in duration, inexpressible in value, infinite in scope, divine in authorship, regenerative in power, infallible in authority, universal in interest, personal in application, inspired in totality. Read it through. Write it down. Pray it in. Work it out. Pass it on. It is the Word of God.

***"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Tim 3:16-17***

***"Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in Heaven." Psalm 119:89***

***"Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Psalm 119:11***