

Emmaus Chapter 2 – Mike Baran

Grasping God's Word – Chapter 2

Assignment 2-1

Describe the five steps of the Interpretive Journey

Step 1: What did the text mean to the original audience?

Step 2: What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?

Step 3: What is the theological principle in this text?

Step 4: How does our theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?

Step 5: How should individual Christians today live out the theological principle?

Assignment 2-2

The criteria or guidelines for developing the theological principle are as follows:

1. The principle should be reflected in the text.
2. The principle should be timeless and not tied to a specific situation.
3. The principle should not be culturally bound.
4. The principle should correspond to the teaching of the rest of Scripture.
5. The principle should be relevant to both the biblical and the contemporary audience.

Assignment 2-3

The differences that determine the width of the river to cross (the differences between the original biblical audience and us) include differences in culture, language, situation and time. Difference in covenants is unlikely to be a factor.

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Sacrificial System

1. Pre Jesus = Animal sacrifices for atonement and only at the Temple.
2. Post Jesus = Spiritual sacrifices only as there is no longer a Temple.

1 Peter 2:5

“you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, *to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*”

1. Jesus is our Sin offering (2 Corinthians 5:21).
“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
2. Jesus is our Meal offering of bread and wine (Matthew 26:26-28).
“²⁶Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”
3. Jesus is our Peace offering (Ephesians 2:14, 16).
“¹⁴For he himself is our peace, ... ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.”
4. Our lives are to be a Whole Burnt offering of total dedication to God (Romans 12:1-2).
“¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Jesus' life was our example and *not* our substitute. It was only his death that was our substitute in that he died in our place – his was a vicarious sacrifice – and so he is our sin offering, our meal offering and our peace offering. His sinless life was a whole burnt offering, but only for himself and not for us. It is here that we need to emulate Jesus in ensuring that our lives are a whole burnt offering in the same way that his was.

The Universal Theological Principle.

While ever we are human and carnal (flesh and blood beings) we will need to constantly war with our sin nature (our propensity to sin). Nevertheless we will periodically succumb to sinful practices and so will need a blood sacrifice to redeem us from the death penalty that sin imposes on us (Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:15). From his own experience, the apostle Paul told us about our constant and ongoing war with our sin nature when he said:

“¹⁵For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God *through Jesus Christ our Lord!* So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (Romans 7:15-25).

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