

Comments of chapter 6

Principally on page 111 – refer to that for the full context.

The very first fundamental to understanding God’s Word is not emphasised. That is, we have to acknowledge its authority and submit to it – obey what it teaches. We can understand it only by God’s revealing it to us.

I have a few issues with how words are used – the word “author” is used for the writer of the book in Scripture. The term is swapped between “author” and “writer” – I think the word “writer” should always be used. It should be made very clear that there is only one Author – this is according to the unequivocal Scripture -

2 Peter 1 ¹⁹ ¶ And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private ¶ interpretation, ²¹ for **prophecy never came by the will of man, but ¶ holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**

The *reasonings and thinking* of the writers had no part in the authorship – though their style of expression and background experience are evident. It was not their literary work, but God’s (and not to be argued with – apart from whether it’s been accurately transmitted and translated)

This statement below is not right, because it dilutes this absolute (“the human “author” had a part in the message”).

“ ... God (the ultimate source) spoke through the human writers of Scripture (the immediate source) This is how God chose to speak.

Please don’t misunderstand what we are saying here. God has given us eternal principles in his Word that apply to every person of every age. Our goal in *Grasping God’s Word* is to teach you how to discover and live out those theological truths. We are not questioning *whether* God has given us eternally relevant principles; we are simply noting *how* he has done so. We believe that the way we approach the Bible (ie the way we listen to God) should match how God gave us the Bible (ie the way God chose to speak). Otherwise we will likely misunderstand what God is trying to say to us.”

Of course, there is truth in the above statement – but it is God who reveals what is in His Word – regardless of their approach. Without God’s revealing, it cannot be understood – and with that revealing it requires submission for understanding to increase and grow.

Ps 95 ⁷ For He *is* our God,
And we *are* the people of His pasture,
And the sheep ^{of} His hand.

Today, if you will hear His voice:

⁸ **“Do not harden your hearts,** as in the ^{of} rebellion,
As *in* the day of ^{of} trial in the wilderness,

God chooses to whom He will reveal His Word, and when – it does not mean He loves anyone less because He chooses to keep them in the dark for the duration of their current lives. He can resurrect them to teach them later – in His good time.

Luke 8:10 And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is given* in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’

Romans 9 ¹⁶ So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.” ¹⁸ Therefore He has mercy on whom **He wills**, and whom **He wills** He hardens.

The things of God are only understood by His Spirit – that He gives to those who yield to him (Acts 5:32). It is not understood by our attempts at “*interpretation*” – we are to seek to *understand*, and that is only possible by *our submission*-ref 2 Cor10:4-6

1 Cor 2 ¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the ^{of} Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But **the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.** ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. ¹⁶ For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Cor 10 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, ² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. ⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness.

⁶ Now **these things became our examples**, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. ⁷ And do not become idolaters as *were* some of

them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." ⁸ Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; ⁹ nor let us ¹⁰tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; ¹⁰ nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ **Now ¹¹all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our ¹²admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.**

1 Peter 1 ¹⁰ Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you, ¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹² **To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to ¹²us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you** through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

Were Paul and Peter arrogant in what they wrote above? God *chose* not to give the Israelites back then understanding – they could not comprehend the Scriptures given to them.

"We should not be so arrogant and prideful as to think that God cared nothing about the original audience but was merely using them to get a message to us.

The truth of the matter is that each passage of Scripture was "God's Word to other people before it became God's Word to us" God cared deeply about the original hearers and spoke to them within their own historical-cultural situation. God also cares deeply about us. The time bound message of Scripture contains eternally relevant principles that we can discover and live out."

Only if God chooses to open our minds – and if He starts to do that, we must take care not to resist Him.

John 7 ¹⁴ Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. ¹⁵ And the Jews marveled, saying, "**How does this Man know letters, having never studied?**"

¹⁶ ¹⁶Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. ¹⁷ **If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or *whether I speak on My own authority.*** ¹⁸ He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. ¹⁹ Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?"

Well, *it is God who puts it in us to will and to do His good pleasure* (Phil 2:13)