

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOW SHIP

What Are You Saying?

A Look at Perception

I. Are you looking at God and His Word with the right perspective?

A. Does He speak to us? (Hebrews 1:4)

1. He uses His Word to equip us (2 Tim 3:16-17)
2. His Word is alive (Heb 4:12)

B. Is His Word trustworthy?

1. This is where faith comes in (Heb 11:6)
2. There are plenty of evidences, but God wants faith (Rom 1:18-22)

C. How do I understand His Word?

1. Things can be confusing even outside the Bible:

Politics, cultural expression, idioms, personality, values, unstated expectations

2. The Bible can be confusing:

At first glance some translations seem to contradict each other:

*1 John 4:19-21 "Him" is missing in some versions. (Following verses solves it)

*Ps 63:1 early vs earnestly vs diligently (the intent is the same)

There seem to be contradictions between accounts and principles

*Acts 9:7 heard a voice but saw no one, Acts 22:9 didn't hear a voice

*Different versions of the gospel stories in different chronologies

*Matt 10:34 not peace but a sword.

3. Don't be afraid of the confusion. Let God show you how to reason it out.

a. it isn't about the perfect translation/word choice

b. be careful of how smart you think you are (Prov 26:12)

c. it's about what God is saying to us.

II. The Cross and the Work of Christ are at the center of the gospel (1 Cor 2:1-5)

A. The Cross is what draws people to Jesus (John 12:28-41)

1. Does vs 32 say that praise draws people to God?

2. There was a symbol of this in the wilderness (John 3:12-17)

B. The Work of Salvation is good news for us (1 Cor 1:18-25)

1. We wanted to figure things out for ourselves and look at the world we've made

2. God knows our weakness and our need for Him

III. Have you adopted His perspective?

A. Where do wars come from? (James 4:1-6)

1. We think we know better

2. We don't

B. Following in the footsteps of failures

1. Abraham was a mess, but He trusted God, mostly

2. David wasn't great, but He loved God passionately

C. Strengthened by a King

1. Jesus brings out the best in us, do we do that? (2 Cor 12:7-10)

2. He has done it all for us and we are conquerors (Rom 8:31-37)

3. Lift each other and help each other (Phil 2:2-4)

Discussion questions:

- * What did I hear today that I can use to be more like Christ?
- * How has God changed your perspective since being saved?
- * What tools have you found that help you to understand scripture?
- * What has God been teaching you?