

the texts originally meant--the interpretation per se. The second is the difficulty of relating the text to the present day--the question of application.

- what it meant (interp) and what it means (app)
- Sometimes the distinction is very easy, sometimes it's not
- Interp. comes before Application

C. The Proper Attitude and Stance

1. Dependence on the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the one who leads the disciples into all the truth (Jn. 16: 13-15; cf. 14:17). Note, however, that this is not a substitute for hard work. Neither is it a promise of infallibility--we must distinguish between inspiration and illumination.

Illumination is still somehow connected with human fallibility - we cannot claim infallibility based on illumination

2. A commitment to the inspired Word. The radical critic of the Bible may know the science of interpretation, but he will not know the art--he will treat Scripture as just another book.

We need both good principles of interp. and commitment

- In other words, the radical critic may be able to expound what it says, but there is always something missing

- One needs a stance of faith to interpret the Bible - An openness to what it says and a belief in its veracity

3. A commitment to finding the truth. There is a need for us to sit loose to our own ideas and desires. Don't hold too tightly to preconceived views

- a. We need to distinguish what the Bible says from what we want it to say.

We naturally want the Bible to justify the way we are

- b. We need to distinguish (at least in theory) what the Bible says from what we think it says.

we all have assumptions which we have never Biblically explored or even thought about exploring