

## Biblical Watershed Issues (Part 2)

**WATERSHED: a crucial dividing point, line, or factor** (Merriam-Webster.com)

Where you come to place your belief on any these crucial doctrines as a Christian (one who believes in Jesus as Savior and seeks to follow Him) will impact and affect how you interpret and view truth, life, the home, the Church, the culture, and the future. Each view is a dividing point – a fork in the road that leads away from the opposing views and often impacts many beliefs downstream.

*These are not opinions, but frameworks of belief. These are embraced by ones regardless of their personal study. It is imperative to understand the reasons and arguments before making up your mind. Base your conclusions on the best Biblical reasoning possible. A key to discerning the truth is not to pursue what you want to be true, but to approach the Word of God with a teachable spirit. The Bible is not a personal smorgasbord from which we pick and choose what we want to believe.*

### 7 Watershed Views Which Determine Our Approach to God's Word (Revelation and Interpretation)

1. **Verbal (Every Word), Plenary (Every Part) Inspiration** vs No or Limited Inspiration  
*God Has Spoken Through His Word – It Is True and Accurate*  
2 Tim. 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable...  
Matt. 5:18 "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."
2. **Transcendence of the Word** vs Culturally Discounting the Word  
*God's Word Applies Across Time*
  - o 2 Tim 3:16-17; Joshua 1:6-9; Psalm 1:1-3; Psalm 119; E.g. 1 Tim 2:8-15
3. **Literal Interpretation** vs Allegorical Interpretation  
*God's Word Is to Be Read Normally – It Means What It Says*
  - o Historical, grammatical method vs. says one thing but means another
4. **Dispensationalism** vs Covenant Theology (the 2 main approaches)  
*We Form Our Understanding from the Bible*
  - o **Covenant Theology:** a system of theology which attempts to develop the Bible's philosophy of history on the basis of two or three covenants which are not named or referenced in Scripture, and uses both the "normal" method (historical-grammatical) AND spiritualizing/allegorizing (especially prophetic passages & Israel).
  - o **Dispensationalism:** a system of theology which attempts to develop the Bible's philosophy of history on the basis of the sovereign rule of God. It represents the whole of Scripture and history as being covered by several dispensations of God's rule, and uses only the "normal" method, resulting in clarity between the church & Israel.

### 5. **Cessationism** vs Charismatic Movement

*Sign Gifts Served God's Purpose and Have Stopped.*

- o Sign gifts listed early in the NT era (1 Cor 12:8-10) differ greatly from the end of the NT era (Rom 12:6-8), are indicated as being temporary (1 Cor 13:8), and are evidenced as having passed in Paul's own actions prior to the end of the NT. The sign gifts (given to authenticate and assist the beginning of the church) are not seen in history until the reemergence in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and these are vastly different than how they are described in Scripture.
- o Effect on inspiration and the functional view of Scripture:
  - If God is still talking today (through prophecy, tongues, visions, etc.), our dependency on the Word is lessened, as it is incomplete.
  - If God is still talking today (through prophecy, tongues, visions, etc.), nothing is truly concrete truth.

### 6. **Wisdom (God's Word + Biblical Wisdom)** vs Mysticism (subjective feelings and circumstances). Relates to the decision-making process.

*We Live By the Commands of God, the Principles of God, and the Wisdom of God*

- o **Example: Living by the "peace of God"**  
Col. 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.  
Col. 3:12-16 Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. <sup>14</sup> But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
- o **Effect: Undermines the Word of God, and dependence upon the Word of God.**

### 7. **Sufficiency** vs Psychology

- o Eph 5:18: Be filled with the Spirit
- o Col 3:16: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly
- o Col 2:6-8: Walk in Him, rooted, built up, established in the faith; beware!
- o 2 Tim 3:16-17: thoroughly furnished to every good work
- o 2 Peter 1:2-4: has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness