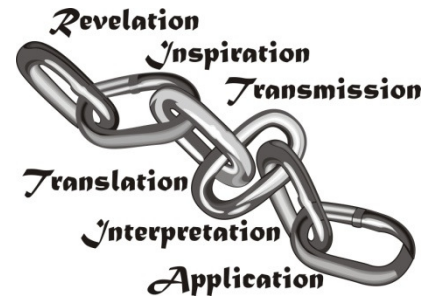


The Divine Chain of Communication

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Handout 5 Special Revelation 1 Cor. 2:1-16

I. The Nature of Special Revelation

A. Whereas General Revelation rests on creation, Special Revelation rests on re-creation.

1. It is addressed to men as sinners with a view to their redemption.
2. It can be received only by the spiritual man.

B. It is sourced in

1. Jesus Christ, the living Word. John 1:1, 14; Hebrews 1:1-2
2. the written word

C. All we know of the Living Word, Jesus Christ, is contained within the written word (the Bible)

1. God has spoken in various way throughout history (Hebrews 1:1-2)
2. God's supreme revelation of Himself is in Jesus Christ.
3. The Bible is the written Word of God.
4. The 66 books of the Bible constitute the final and complete revelation of God to man (Jude 3 "contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints")

D. Special Revelation is:

1. objective (not subjective) - written down,
2. factual - deals with the facts of history and truths about God and his creation, both spiritual and physical

II. The Fact of Special Revelation 1 Cor. 2:7-10a (that which was previously hidden later revealed (to us))

A. that which was previously hidden

1. mystery =
 - a. 'mystery' does not mean mysterious
 - b. rather it refers to that which was heretofore veiled but now unveiled

2. Orthodoxy vs. Neo-Orthodoxy

- a. Orthodoxy says that not only has God revealed himself **personally** in Jesus Christ but God has also revealed himself **propositionally** in the words that the Prophets, and Jesus and His apostles spoke.
- b. Neo-Orthodoxy (Karl Barth) says that God does not reveal himself propositionally in word form, but God only reveals Himself personally.

(1) According to Neo-orthodoxy, the Bible is not the word of God, but rather, the "word" of God is the encounter an individual has when reading the Bible.

(2) According to Neo-orthodoxy, God does not reveal truths about Himself, He only reveals himself.

B. later revealed (to us)

III. The Means of Special Revelation vv. 10b-12

A. through the Spirit

B. Liberalism and New Age say that man can discover the deep things of God (God is only immanent.)

C. Neo-orthodoxy goes to the other extreme and denies any knowledge of God apart from Special Revelation (God is only transcendent.)

D. But creation reveals the fundamental things of God (existence, holiness) and the Spirit of God can reveal the deep things of God (the gospel).

E. The only reason man can know these deep things of God is because God has chosen to reveal Himself to man.

IV. The Method of Special Revelation v. 13

A. Paul speaks the things of God by the Spirit.

B. "Not in man's wisdom" is not a repudiation of man's wisdom (philosophy) which is legitimate for General Revelation.

C. Rather, "man's wisdom" is not the source of these deeper things of God.

D. Cf. 1 Peter 1:20-21 = dual authorship: God and God's holy men