

Interpreting the Bible--Dispensations

- I. Dispensationalism is a result of a desire for a literal interpretation of Scripture.
 1. All Scripture is “God-beathed”, therefore there are no contradictions in Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16).
 2. We want to ascertain what God is communicating, not impose our perspective.
 3. Systematic approach basics:
 - 1) Literal,
 - 2) Historical,
 - 3) Grammatical,
 - 4) Contextual.
 4. Proper use of the Old Testament:
 - 1) Comfort: God always takes care of His people (Rom. 15:4).
 - 2) Admonition, or what not to do (1 Cor. 10:6, 11).
 5. The way to live a Christian life is in the New Testament.
 6. Dispensationalism = stewardship = administration.
 7. The term ‘dispensation’ was used during Biblical times of a normal management system (Rm. 16:23).
 8. Dispensations are NOT a means for salvation.
- II. The term ‘dispensation’ used historically.
 1. Contains five parts (Lu. 16:1-4; 12:42-43; Mt. 24:45-46):
 - 1) A lord, or master (rich man-Lu. 16:1).
 - 2) Steward.
 - 3) Dispensation, stewardship—realm of authority.
 - 4) Household.
 - 5) Day of accounting.
- III. These five components are applicable in the New Testament.
 1. **Lord**—Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:10).
 2. **Steward**—Apostle Paul (Eph. 3:2, 8-10; Col. 1:25).
 3. **Dispensation**/stewardship—realm of authority: the Mystery Gospel (Rom. 16:25).
 4. **Household**—New Testament believers (Gal. 6:10).
 5. Day of **accounting** (2 Cor. 5:10).
- IV. A *dispensation* is a unique period in God’s program that relates to mankind, in which He tests some or all of mankind. There are seven dispensations.