

## ***TOLLE LEGE***

### *Reading the Bible as a Christ-Centered Book*

*“Proper interpretation of any part of the Bible requires us to relate it to the person and work of Jesus.” - Graeme Goldsworthy*

*“The law and the prophets that precede and the apostolic ministry that follows the work of the cross make Jesus their center.” - Bryan Chapell*

*“We affirm that the person and work of Jesus Christ are the central focus of the entire Bible.”*

- Chicago Statement on Biblical Hermeneutics (Article III)

#### I. Christ's Self-Affirmation of the Bible as a Christ-Centered Book

- A. Luke 24:25-27
- B. Luke 24:44
- C. John 5:39-40, 46
- D. Matthew 5:17

#### II. Apostolic Affirmation of the Bible as a Christ-Centered Book

- A. Pauline Epistles
  - 1) Romans 1:1-3
  - 2) 1 Corinthians 2:2
  - 3) Galatians 3:8-9
  - 4) 2 Timothy 3:14-15
- B. Non-Pauline Epistles
  - 1) Hebrews
  - 2) 1 Peter 1:10-12

#### III. Learning to View the Bible as a Christ-Centered Book

- A. The Person and Work of Christ Disclosed Directly in the Text
  - 1) Gospels
  - 2) Messianic psalms
  - 3) Epistles
  - 4) Prophetic utterance
- B. The Person and Work of Christ Disclosed in Types
  - 1) Adam (Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22, 42-49)
  - 2) Moses (infancy, Egypt, law-giver)
  - 3) The Passover lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7)
  - 4) The exodus (freedom from slavery and oppression)
  - 5) Israel (wilderness, twelve tribes/disciples, law-keeper, light to the nations)

C. The Person and Work of Christ Disclosed in and through the Covenants

1) Abrahamic Covenant

- i. God graciously calls Abraham out of paganism and promises to make his name great, to make him a great nation, to bless him, to bless those who bless him and curse those who curse him, and to bless all the nations through him.
- ii. This covenant serves as the basis of every other covenant after it.
- iii. Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-6
- iv. Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:16, 29

2) Mosaic Covenant

- i. God makes a covenant with Israel, establishing a means for them to obey him in order that they might inherit the blessings and promises of the Abrahamic covenant. It is also given to distinguish them from the pagan nations around them.
- ii. It makes clear humanity's inability to obey God and thus the need for a Savior.
- iii. Exodus 19ff; Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28
- iv. Galatians 3:10-14

3) Davidic Covenant

- i. God promises David an eternal house, an eternal kingdom, and an eternal throne.
- ii. This covenant contains echoes of the Abrahamic covenant.
- iii. 2 Samuel 7:8-16
- iv. Matthew 1:1; Luke 1:31-33; Acts 13:13-33; Revelation 22:16

4) New Covenant

- i. Jeremiah 31:31-34
- ii. Luke 22:14-20

IV. A Reminder to Preachers and Teachers to Practice Christ-Centered Exposition

- A. Teaching texts that are predictive of the person and work of Christ
- B. Teaching texts that are preparatory for the person and work of Christ
- C. Teaching texts that are reflective of the person and work of Christ
- D. Teaching texts that are resultant of the person and work of Christ