



Becoming
Biblically
Literate

A Lamp Unto Our Feet

03.12.2023

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John 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

John 15:3-4, 7

You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you...If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Genesis 1:3-4

Now the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness.

"When we speak, the word which we hold in our mind becomes a sound in order that what we have in our mind may pass through ears of flesh into the listener's mind: this is called speech. Our thought, however, is not converted into the same sound, but remains intact in its own home, suffering no diminution from its change as it takes on the form of a word in order to make its way into the ears. In the same way the word of God became flesh in order to live in us but was unchanged."

- Augustine, *On Christian Teaching*

"The matter is quite simple. The bible is very easy to understand. But we Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minute we understand, we are obliged to act accordingly. Take any words in the New Testament and forget everything except pledging yourself to act accordingly."

- Soren Kierkegaard, *Provocations*

John 5:39

"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life."

"The Scriptures...breathe the Spirit of fullness, and there is nothing, whether in the Law or in the Prophets, in the Evangelists or in the Apostles, which does not descend from the fullness of the Divine Majesty. Even at the present time the words of fullness speak in the Holy Scriptures to those who have eyes to see the mysteries of heaven, and ears to hear the voice of God." - Origen

1. The Plain Historical Sense

2. The Typological Sense
3. The Spiritual or Prophetic Sense (in which the text may be applied to the devout soul)

“Then, finally, that the Scriptures were written by the Spirit of God, and have a meaning, not such only as is apparent at first sight, but also another, which escapes the notice of most. For those (words) which are written are the forms of certain mysteries, and the images of divine things. Respecting which there is one opinion throughout the whole Church, that the whole law is indeed spiritual; but that the spiritual meaning which the law conveys is not known to all, but to those only on whom the grace of the Holy Spirit is bestowed in the word of wisdom and knowledge.”

- Origen, *The Complete Works of Origen*

“The Written Word, the Preached Word, & the Incarnate Word” - Karl Barth

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“What the heart loves, the will chooses, and the mind justifies.” - Ashley Null, regarding English Reformer Thomas Cranmer's anthropology

“Those who believe the Author of Nature to be also the Author of Scripture must expect to find in Scripture the same sorts of difficulties that they find in Nature.” - Origen

“For those who seek but do not find suffer from hunger. Those, again, who do not seek at all because they have what they require just beside them often grow languid from satiety. Now weakness from either of these causes is to be avoided. Accordingly, the Holy Spirit has, with admirable wisdom and care for our welfare, so arranged the Holy Scriptures as by the plainer passages to satisfy our hunger, and by the more obscure to stimulate our appetite. For almost nothing is dug out of those obscure passages which may not be found set forth in the plainest language elsewhere...After this, when we have made ourselves to a certain extent familiar with the language of Scripture, we may proceed to open up and investigate the obscure passages, and in doing so draw examples from the plainer expressions to throw light upon the more obscure, and use the evidence of passages about which there is no doubt to remove all hesitation in regard to the doubtful passages.”

- Augustine, *De Doctrina Christiana*

Luke 21:33

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Psalm 33:4

For the word of the Lord is right and true;
he is faithful in all he does.

Psalm 107:20

He sent out his word and healed them;
he rescued them from the grave.