

The Work of Biblical Interpretation

6. Let the work of Biblical Interpretation be undertaken with honesty and humility. Human opinions are an empty sound, and even learning is a vain show when arrayed against the truths of the Bible.

Truth will stand; it is destined to a glorious and universal triumph. It will bless and comfort all those who hold it in righteousness. It has outlived the scoffs of the most heaven-daring infidels. The mists of skepticism cannot conceal and essentially darken it, the storms of persecution have been unable to sweep it away. Woe to the man who lifts up his puny hand against divine truth. In doing this, he rebels against God, and treasures up wrath against the day of wrath to be poured out upon his guilty soul.

Joy to that man who is on the side of truth. Truth will be on his side. If he has taken the part of truth against an angry and unbelieving world, truth will take his part against all that may threaten to disturb his peace and destroy his soul. By God's truth he shall be sanctified, and being sanctified shall enjoy a blissful eternity with him, whose words are truth, whose favor is life, whose loving-kindness is better than life.

The work of biblical interpretation is easy to the candid, attentive and prayerful inquirer. By such the principles and leading rules of this interesting science, will be readily apprehended. To the captious and caviling, they will be more difficult of acquisition; but yet, I do not despair of affording them some aid, if they will patiently examine the subject by the light of their good common sense, to see if these things are so.

(The Elements of Biblical Interpretation: Containing a Brief Exposition of the Fundamental Principles and Rules of this Science by L. A. Sawyer, New York: Leavitt, Lord & Co., 1834, 7-8)