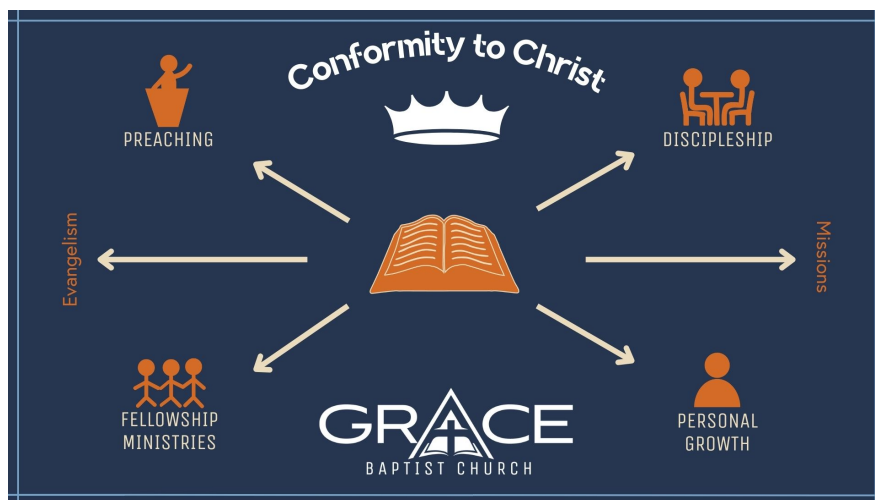


Instructor: Pastor Jon

Class Summary: This lesson focuses on what dispensationalism is, and how it impacts our study of Scripture and affects our theology.

Review:

- God is
- God has spoken
- Epistemology
- Hermeneutics
- Progress of Revelation
- Biblical Theology



The term "Dispensation" comes from the Greek word οἰκονομία (oikonomia) and means a household, an administration, an economy, or a stewardship. Ephesians 3:2

Dispensationalism is...

- A theological system
- A Theological method
- A theological framework
- A philosophy of history
- A theology of interpretation
- A comprehensive and cohesive understanding of the Bible

Why do we need a comprehensive and cohesive understanding of the Bible?**How does one establish a comprehensive and cohesive understanding of the Bible?**

- Kevin DeYoung- "As a Christian I hope that my theology is open to correction, but as a minister I have to start somewhere. We all do. For me that means starting with Reformed theology and my confessional tradition and sticking with that unless I have really good reason not to."
- Christopher Cone- "A theological system ought to be the product of exegetical study of Scripture, not a preface to exegetical work... The bottom line is a simple one: we either submit to authorial intent regardless of the theological outcomes (recognizing that theology is an outcome, not a starting place), or we pursue an affirmation of a predetermined theological system with which we can be content. One is submissive to the Writer, the other is not."

If we are going to establish a comprehensive and cohesive understanding of Scripture that is derived from the text itself then there are some questions that we must answer from that text.

- **Question #1- What method of interpretation should we use in able to establish a correct understanding of the text? What method does the text itself use?**

- A case study in Genesis (Christopher Cone in *Priority in Biblical Hermeneutics and Theological Method*)-
- Passage Priority- "The primary meaning of any Bible passage is found in that passage. The New Testament does not reinterpret or transcend Old Testament passages in a way that overrides or cancels the original authorial intent of the Old Testament writers." Michael Vlach (page 29. *Dispensationalism: Essential Beliefs and Common Myths: Revised and Updated*)
- Progress of Revelation
- No genre override
- **Question #2- Is there a unifying theme or principle that ties all of Scripture together? If so, what is this theme or principle?**
 - Isaiah 42:8
 - Isaiah 48:9;11
 - Romans 11:36
 - I Corinthians 15:20-28
- **Question #3- What areas of continuity and discontinuity are seen throughout the history addressed by Scripture?**
 - Continuity
 - Salvation has always been and always will be (as long as it is offered) by grace through faith
 - Man's failure
 - God's judgement
 - Fulfillment of God's promises across testaments
 - Discontinuity
 - Law and Grace
 - Israel and church
 - The work of the Holy Spirit
 - Food restrictions
 - Means of maintaining fellowship with God
 - Access to God

What is Dispensationalism?

"Dispensationalism is a biblical framework for understanding God's various dealings with mankind throughout history. Sometimes referred to as a philosophy of history, dispensationalism maintains that God has dealt with humanity on the basis of differing divinely expressed stewardships or administrations also called dispensations. As such, dispensationalists are known for framing their understanding of Scripture around those identifiable elements which serve to distinguish one dispensation from another." James Fazio

"Dispensationalism is a comprehensive and cohesive understanding of the Bible, the product of a consistent literal, grammatical, historical hermeneutic applied to Scripture. It recognizes that in His interactions from eternity past to eternity future, God works in different administrations, economies, stewardships, or dispensations. It is not a hermeneutic, an eschatology, or a theological construct." Dr. Christopher Cone

"Dispensationalism is a comprehensive theological system based upon a consistent grammatical-historical hermeneutic applied to all Scripture. It accounts for God's creation, kingdom, and covenant purposes and how these unfold in history from Genesis 1 through Revelation 22. It also explains how Israel, the nations, and the church relate to God's purposes." Dr. Michael Vlach

Criticism of Dispensationalism

#1- Dispensationalism teaches multiple ways of Salvation:

#2- Dispensationalism is inherently tied to Arminianism:

#3- Dispensationalism is inherently tied to Antinomianism:

#4- Dispensationalism is primarily about seven dispensations:

#5- Dispensationalism is anti-intellectual:

#6- Dispensationalism is a 20th century theological construct:

History of Dispensationalism

The school of Antioch:

The school of Alexandria:

The Reformation:

John Darby:

Dallas Theological Seminary:

The church today:

What is a Dispensation?

"A dispensation is an administration of a household, whereby a steward is appointed to manage his master's goods in order to yield a surplus, for which he will ultimately be judged according to his faithfulness as a steward. " James Fazio

Bibliology and Suggested Books, Articles, and Videos

Books:

A Complete Guide to Understanding the Dispensationalism Controversy, Kerry Trahan, Port Neches, Texas: Disciple of Jesus Ministries, Inc. 2007.

Ancient Dispensational Truth, James Morris, Taos, NM: Dispensational Publishing House 2018.

Discontinuity to Continuity, Benjamin Merkle, Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2020.

Discovering Dispensationalism, Cory Marsh and James Fazio, El Cajon, CA: SCS Press, 2023.

Dispensational Theology in America During the 20th Century, Dale DeWitt, Grace Rapids, MI: Grace Bible College Publications, 2002.

Dispensationalism revised and Expanded, Charles Ryrie, Chicago, IL: Moody, 2007.

Ever Reforming, Andy Woods, Taos, NM: Dispensational Publishing House, 2018.

Issues in Dispensationalism, Wesley Willis, John Master, Chicago, IL: Moody, 1994.

The New Creation Model, Michael Vlach, Cary, NC: Theological Studies Press, 2023.

There Really is a Difference, Renald Showers, Bellamwr, NJ: The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, 1990

Priority in Biblical Hermeneutics and Theological Method, Christopher Cone, ray more, MO: Exegetica Publishing, 2018.

Articles:

Traditional Dispensationalism, James Fazio, JBTS, https://sites.gcu.edu/jbts/2024/12/traditional-dispensationalism/?fbclid=IwY2xjawHtHcZleHRuA2FlbQlXMQABHX2Yy3AUk6pee2wuQFD3zvxOEohQyhm7ekZDJdpssSBxGxdrWX-ODpKV9Q_aem_qAE8E9wRBsMXwbeY8RoRSg

Progressive Dispensationalism, Michael Vach, JBTS, https://sites.gcu.edu/jbts/2024/12/progressive-dispensationalism/?fbclid=IwY2xjawHtHhxleHRuA2FlbQlXMAABHUB0vQbaSt14xtwm6wZXQncpUp4j8OzoXdAd7u0HNSpl0NZ7qmZmqmYTBA_aem_L1oFotnmqCh9UbA4liLM7A

Videos:

Discovering Dispensationalism by Sound Ministries <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dd6lfC-jYHE>