Presuppositions for Hermeneutics

I.   The Bible as God's Word

    A.   The Bible is Inspired by God

    B.   The Authority of Scripture

        1.   Over Personal Experience

        2.   Over Reason

        3.   Over Tradition

II. The Interpreter Must be Born Again

III. The Interpreter Must be Filled with the Spirit

IV. Diversity of the Bible

    A.   Kinds of Diversity

    B.   Implications of Diversity

        1.   We must adapt the methodology for various kinds of literature.

        2.   We must recognize the progress of revelation.

        3.   We must allow the biblical writers to speak for themselves, and then seek an internal unity behind their diverse expressions of faith.

V.   Unity of the Bible

    A.   Unity of Theme

    B.   Implications of Unity

        1.   The Bible is One Story.

VI. "Systematic Theology" Becomes a Possibility.

Biblical Interpretation
God's Word: Modern Translations

I. Overview:

    A. There are approximately 50 English translations of the Bible. There are primarily two reasons for different English Bible versions.

        1. The English language changes continuously. Over time, the Bible needs to be updated to still communicate with the readers.

        2. Modern scholarship is continually improving which impacts translating the Bible.

II. Methodologies.

    1. There are different methodologies for how to best render the original Bible languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic).

        A. *Formal Equivalence* – Literal word for word with the original languages. (NASB- New American Standard; ESV- English Standard Version; RESV- New Revised Standard Version; NKJV- New King James Version; KJV- King James Version).

        B. *Dynamic Equivalence* – Seeks to reproduce the original text using modern language and expression to communicate the message of the Bible. DE is less concerned with exact word for word translation as it is communicating the thought of the verse. (NIrV- New International Readers Version; NLT- New Living Translation; GNT- Good News Translation.)

        C. "Hybrid" Translations, officially called *Optimal Equivalence* – A combination of both Formal and Dynamic Equivalences. Uses word for word translation when possible and a thought for thought approach. (NIV- New International Version; NET- New English Translation; CSB- Christian Standard and HCSB- Holman Christian Standard).

        D. Examples:

John 3:16

Very Literal:

For God did so love the world, that His Son—the only begotten—He gave, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-during. (Youngs Literal Translation).

Formal Equivalence:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (New King James Version).

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His [a]only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (New American Standard 95)

Dynamic Equivalence:

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. (New Living Bible)

Optimal Equivalence:

For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life (New English Translation).

Problems:

A difference in meaning can result from methodologies—Exodus 15:25

When Moses throws the tree into the bitter waters of Marah, the NASB says **the waters became sweet.** On the other hand, the NIV says **the water became fit to drink.** The Hebrew is literally "sweet".