

NO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOD'S WORD

I remember a few days ago when Bill Crawford, one of our elders, told me that “the New Testament sure throws a lot of light on the New Testament Commentaries.” As humorous as that saying may seem on the surface, therein, I believe lies some profound truth.

We know that the Bible is God's Word revealed to us. All one has to do is read the wisdom, logic, and love which is contained therein and the only possible conclusion is that it must be from God. When man tries to improve, or alter that which is said, he only runs into trouble. Now the commentaries are not trying to alter God's Word, just explain it. For the most part they are very good in helping us to understand “difficult” passages, but therein can lie a big danger.

Anytime one reads a commentary on the Bible he is reading one man's or a group of men's opinion on what the scriptures teach. As we try to understand God's Word so that we may grow thereby, we must remember the words of 2Timothy 2:15, “Be diligent to show thyself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth” (NASV). I have and use many commentaries in class and sermon preparation, and have nothing against their use, but one thing to remember is that nothing can take the place of the Bible itself, for only there do we find God's truth.

It is sad for me to hear that some people base their beliefs by saying they take brother so-and-so's position, while others take another brother's position, and etc. Why not take God's position?

As we ponder the doctrine contained in God's Word let us remember that whether we accept man's opinions or not, we should have the same mind and attitude of Joshua when he said, “As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord” (24:15f; NASV).