

“Are We Using the Same Bible? Evangelical Doctrines of Scripture in the Economy of Salvation”

Telford Work, Westmont College, 3/26/07

Dominant Metaphor	Primary Use	Hermeneutical Guide	Representative Figures	Stereotypical Arguments	Heritage	Champions	Paradigmatic CBD Bible	Image of Islam
<i>ultimate narrator</i>	The Bible locates us and everything else in its story of creation, judgment, and redemption.	Apostles’ and Nicene creeds; biblical narratives (e.g., Luke/Acts)	Athanasius; Alexander Campbell	The Bible does not belong to our world (‘Athens’), rather we belong to the Bible’s world (‘Jerusalem’).	premodern Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant; Restorationist	traditionalists, postliberals; biblicists	<i>Keystone Family, Faith & Values Heritage Edition Bible</i> (Fireside)	biblical figure [Ishmael, Babylon, God-fearers, Judaizers, the beast, Pharisees, or Simon bar-Jonah]
<i>God’s Word to the Church</i>	Biblical rituals order our community, our calendar, and our life passages.	lectionaries (magisterial churches and monastic orders); the Sermon on the Mount (baptists)	Benedict, Thomas Cranmer; Menno Simons	Standing for the Gospel reading acknowledges its centrality; following Jesus entails nonviolence.	Catholic; baptist (<i>sic</i>)	Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans, and high-liturgical Protestants; free churches	<i>Broadman & Holman Pew Bible</i> (B&H)	social order both oppressive and supportive of Christ’s body
<i>mirror of personal life experience</i>	The Bible offers us self-understanding.	Psalms and Proverbs, imaginatively ‘autobiographical’ Bible reading	Augustine, Ignatius of Loyola	I see myself as Peter denying Jesus under pressure, yet being restored.	mystical	Spiritualists, Pietists, individualists	<i>Extreme Teen Bible</i> (Nelson)	Saul of Tarsus
<i>judge</i>	The Bible proclaims our relationship with God.	covenantal and kerygmatic passages	Martin Luther, John Calvin	Scripture proclaims our condemnation and our justification.	Protestant	traditional Protestants	<i>Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible</i> (Zondervan)	object of God’s rejection and affirmation
<i>means of conversion</i>	The Bible helps us become ‘convicted’ and change.	conversion narratives (Paul, Jesus’ circle, prophets, patriarchs)	John Wesley, Friedrich Schleiermacher	My own story fits the paradigm of Paul’s past and present life.	Wesleyan	revivalists and sanctificationists	<i>New Believer’s Bible</i> (Tyndale) \$14.99 <i>The Life Plan Study Bible</i> (Nelson)	basis for conversion and sanctification (liberals: a basis for similar spiritual growth)
<i>treasury of truth</i>	The Bible teaches the facts about God and the world.	historical and propositional passages	Charles Hodge; Thomas Jefferson	The Virgin Birth really happened; passages teach universal principles.	modernist	Fundamentalists; liberals	<i>NIV Study Bible</i> (Zondervan) <i>Life Application Bible</i> (Tyndale)	false ideology; a pointer to the same god
<i>means of mission</i>	We translate the Bible and take it to those who need to hear its good news.	the Great Commission, Acts’ evangelistic passages, the nations around the throne	William Tyndale, William Carey	Translating the New Testament facilitates the gospel’s inculturation.	missionary	indigenous churches and intercultural circles	<i>NIV Witness Edition Bible</i> (Zondervan)	fallow mission field; language for faith
<i>past and future timeline</i>	We search the Bible to decode the future.	synthesized genealogies, chronologies, and apocalyptic passages	Joachim of Fiore, John Nelson Darby	The next chapter of cosmic history is imminent.	Adventist	Dispensationists	<i>Reese Chronological Bible</i> (Bethany) <i>Dake Annotated Reference Bible</i> (Dake)	apocalyptic enemy of God’s people
<i>means of power</i>	We wield the Bible to advance Christ’s victorious kingdom.	conflict narratives	Charles Fox Parham, Martin Luther King	We pray with Scripture to overcome adversaries and wage spiritual warfare.	Pentecostal	charismatics, liberation theologians	<i>New Spirit-filled Life Bible</i> (Nelson) <i>Life Recovery Bible</i> (Tyndale)	domain of principalities and powers

(others: *object of fascination, adversary, spiritual disciplinarian*)

<http://www.westmont.edu/~work/lectures/samebible.pdf>