

Seeing the “Whole Picture”

I am about as far from an expert on art as you will find. However, I do know that, if you stand too close to a painting, you can see great detail, but you cannot see the “whole picture.” You can appreciate the details, but you cannot see what the artist intended for you to see when viewing the painting at a distance and as a whole.

The same is true regarding the nature of the Bible. Many view the Bible as a disjointed collection of stories, poetry and prophecy. That is an unfair perception of God’s Word. Yes, it does contain those things and we can gain great pleasure and even learn something from looking at those individual accounts. However, to see the “whole picture” one must step away from it and see it in its entirety, as God does. From God’s perspective, the Bible tells one primary story. It is a book telling us about man’s creation, fall and redemption. The sixty-six books were written by forty men over a period of sixteen hundred years. Yet, there is a unity and flow to the book that would be impossible if the writers were left to their own merit.

The Bible provides a beautiful scenario. Fallen man is provided an opportunity through Christ to inherit eternal life. If we step away from it and see it in its entirety, it paints a picture of victory that will encourage all who will avail themselves of that promise. May we see the Bible as God intended it; as one book promising salvation to mankind through His Son. We will only be able to truly appreciate the contents of God’s Word if we are able to see the “whole picture.”

Sermon Outline: In the Fullness of the Time

1. The Problem: Sin (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:4; 1 Jno. 2:16)
2. The Promises (Gen. 3:15; 12:1-3; 21:12; 49:10; 2 Sam. 7:11-17; Isa. 7:14; Deut. 4:13-14; Jer. 31:31-34; Jno. 6:45)
3. The Provision: In the Fullness of the Time (Gal. 4:4-5; Heb. 10:1-4; 1 Cor. 15:1-4, 25-28)

P.M. – NT Survey: 1 Corinthians (1)