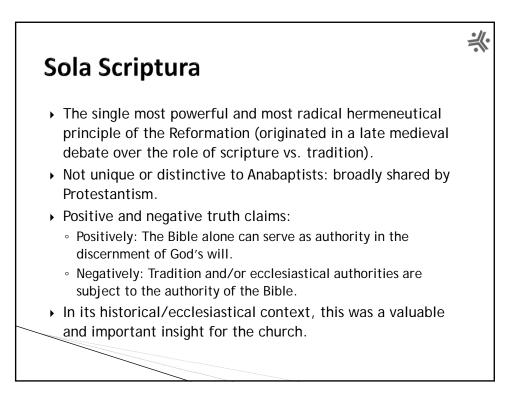
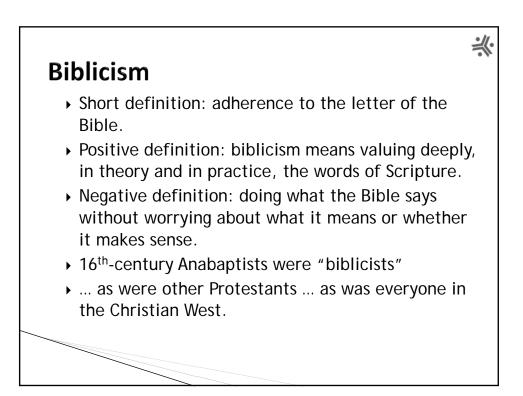
Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture

August 3, 2013

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Introductory Comments If Anabaptists understood Anabaptist hermeneutics better, it would *not* be clear whether modern Mennonites would want to identify with them or not! Ben Ollenburger: "How do you plan to approach this?" Loren: "I could identify an Anabaptist or two whose hermeneutics I liked, then define 'Anabaptism' by those representatives." Ben: "If so, you wouldn't be the first to take that approach!"

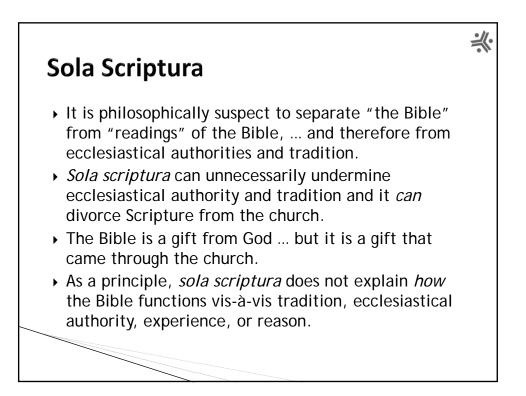


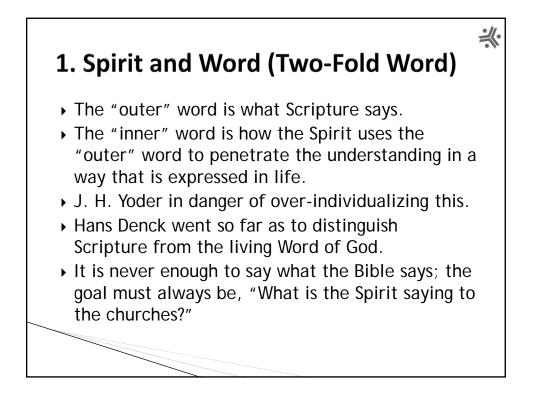


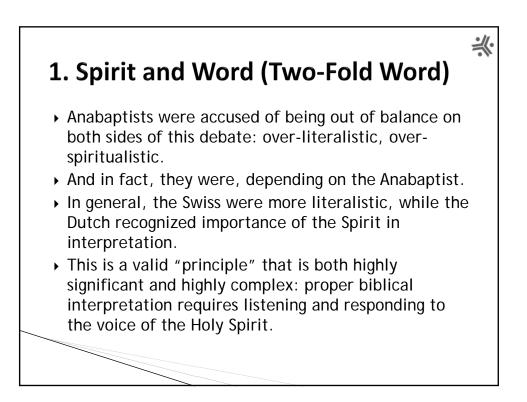
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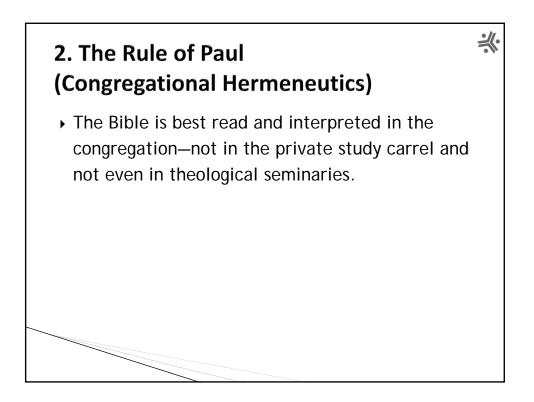
Biblicism

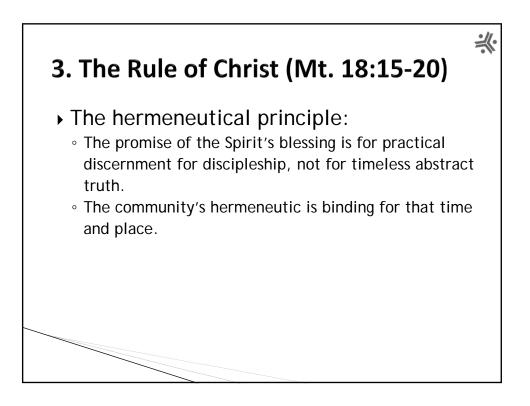
- Anabaptists were neither unique nor distinctive in this regard. Even the Roman Catholics were biblicists (the issue was whether the Bible was the *only* source of revelation or one of two).
- I remain impressed with how well the average Anabaptist knew his or her Bible, as indicated in the *Martyr's Mirror*.
- If valuing the words of Scripture highly, count me in.
- If doing what the Bible says without thinking, we are not biblicists today, and rightly so.
- It is not an intellectually valid option; even Jesus made interpretive choices.

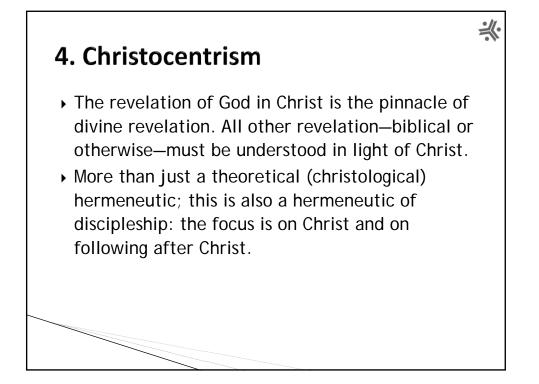


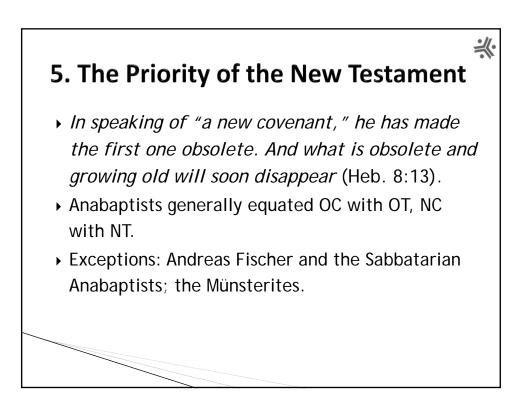


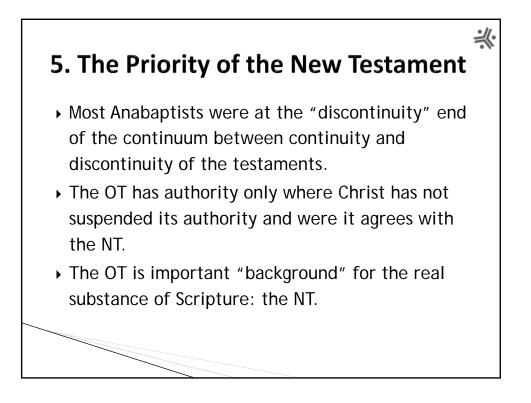


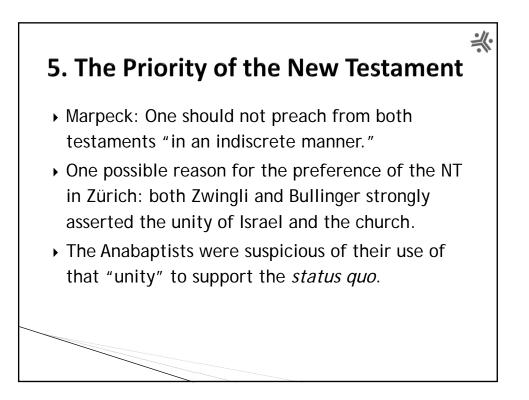


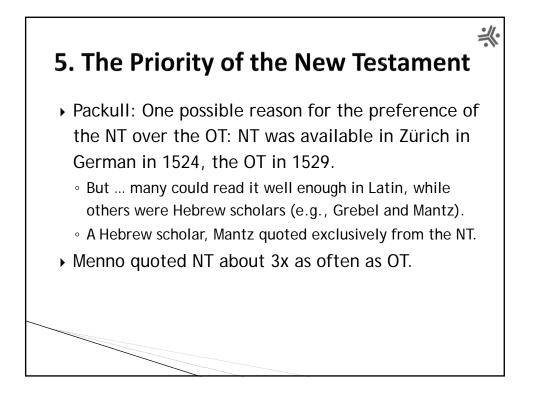


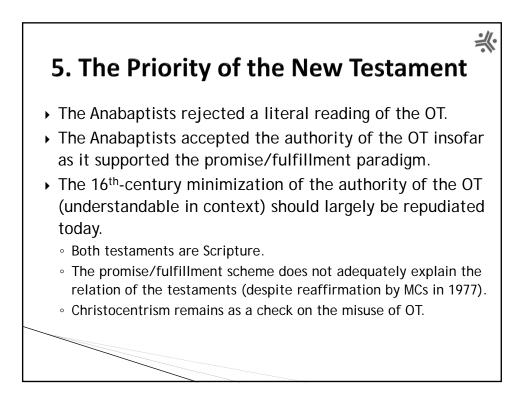


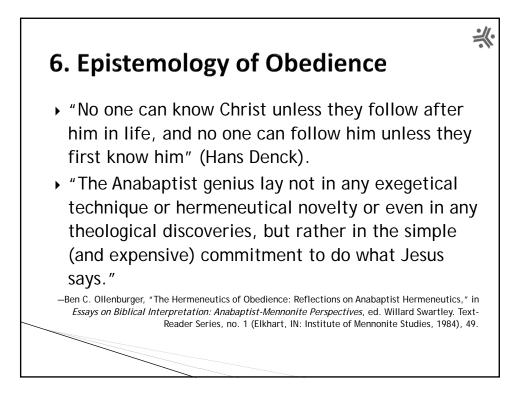


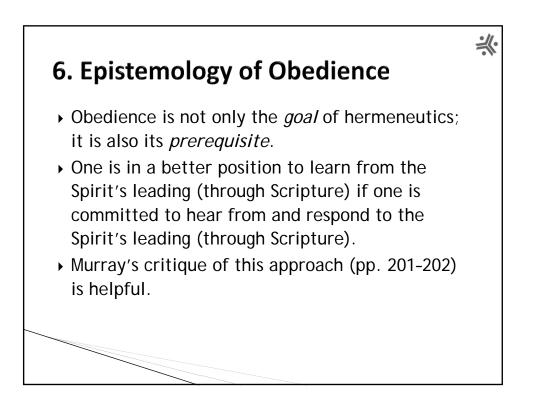


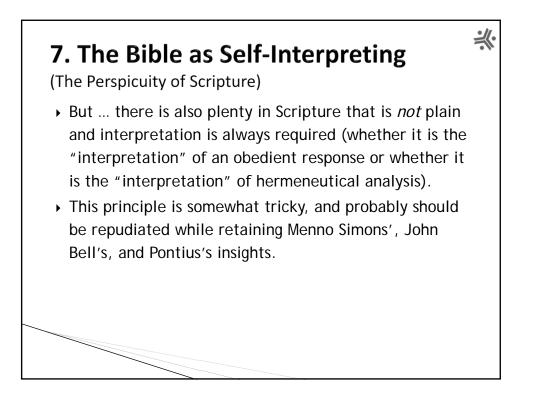


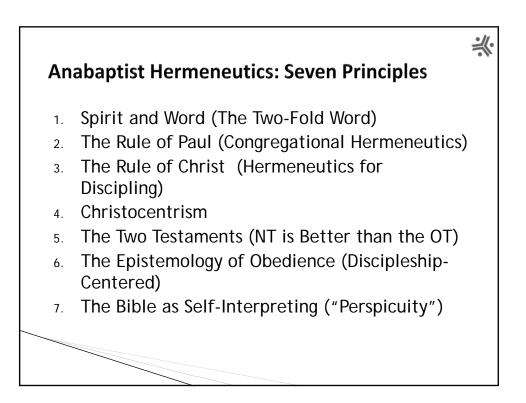












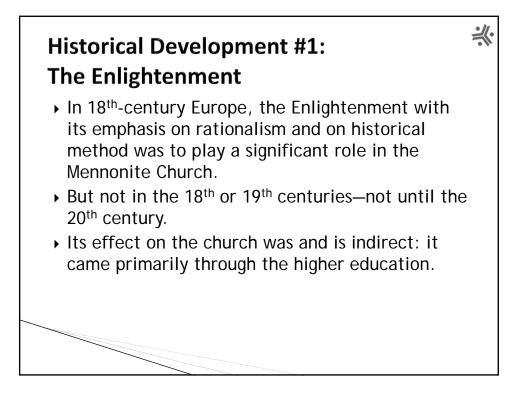
The Bible in Post-Reformation Mennonite History

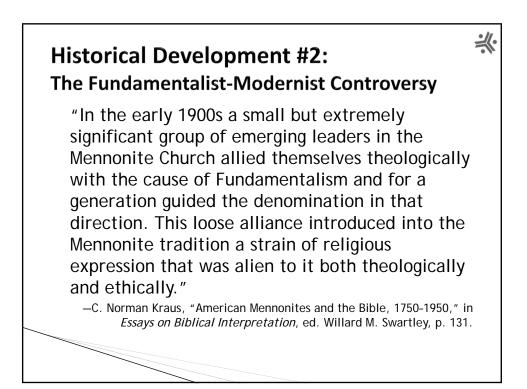
A Few Themes

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Basic Thesis

- As inspiring as it may be to think about the 16thcentury Reformation, it might not be as useful for us as looking at later developments.
- How Mennonites think about and use the Bible has less to do with what happened in the Reformation than with what has happened since then.



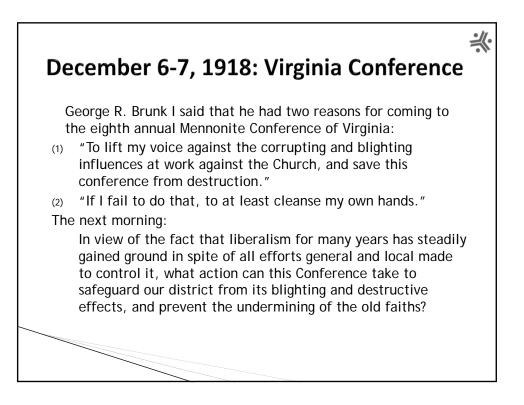


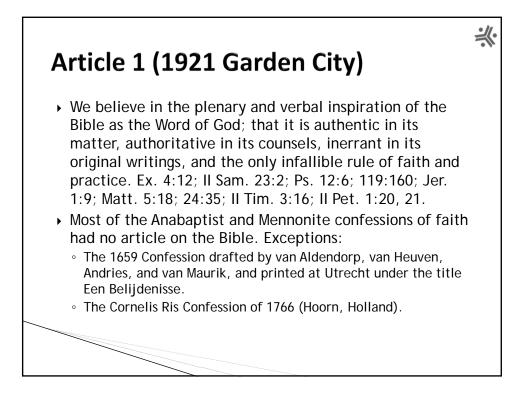
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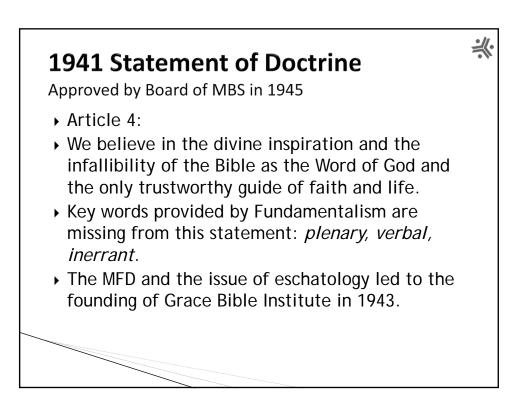
Fundamentalist-Modernist Debate

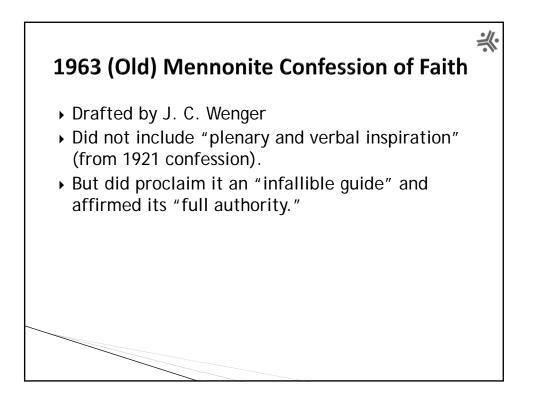
Affected the Old Mennonite Church More

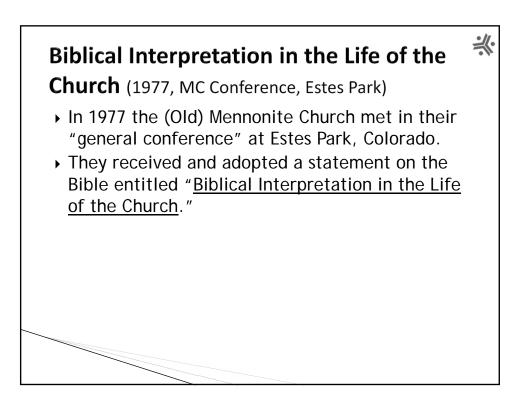
John Horsch (Aug 1, 1918, *Gospel Herald*): The present is a time of crisis for the Christian Church in general and for the Mennonite Church in particular. It is realized today by thinking believers at a crisis is upon us greater than any other which the Christian church in her long and eventful history was called upon to face. The church cannot ignore the fact that between the old Bible faith and the New Theology there is a great gulf fixed. ... This is a question of life and death to the church.

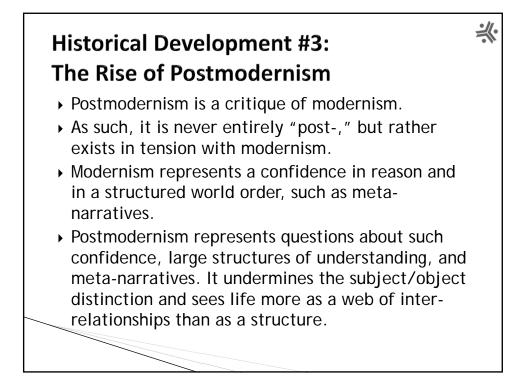


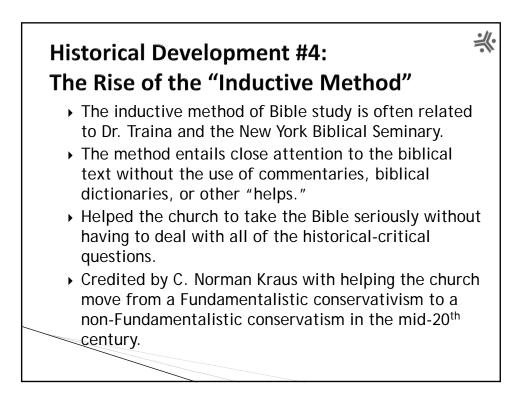




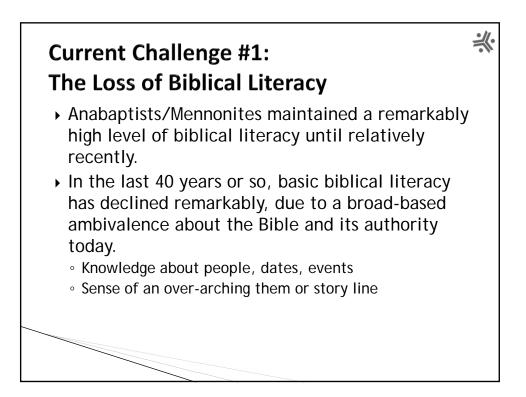


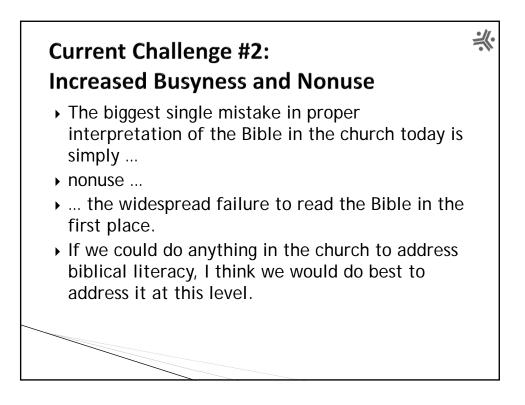


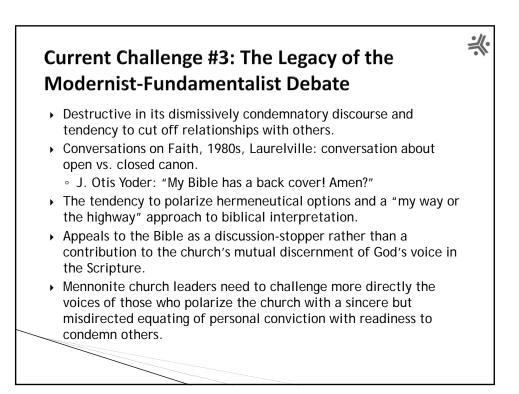


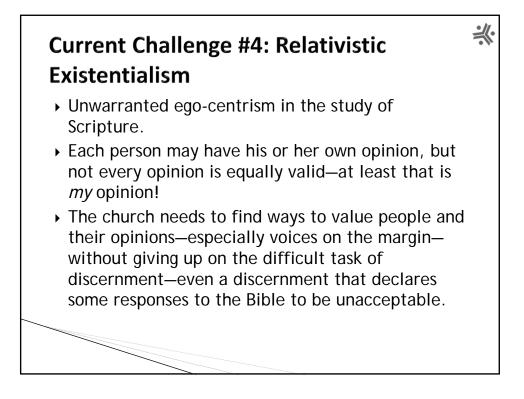


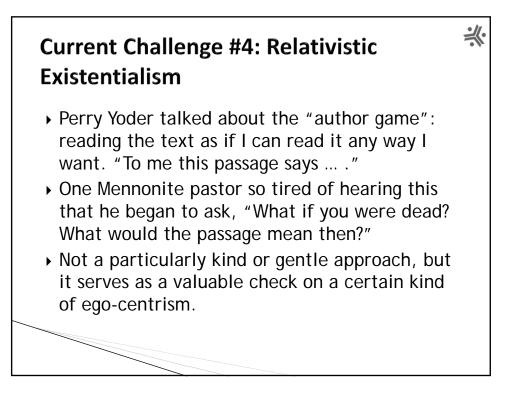


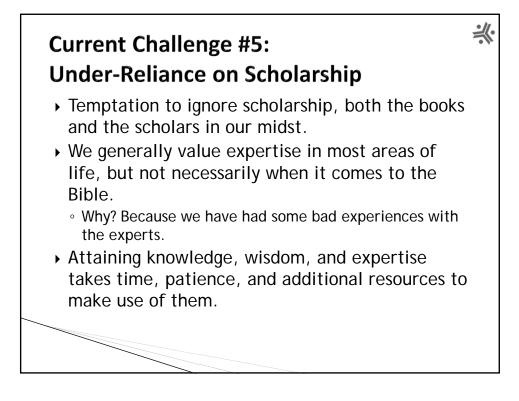


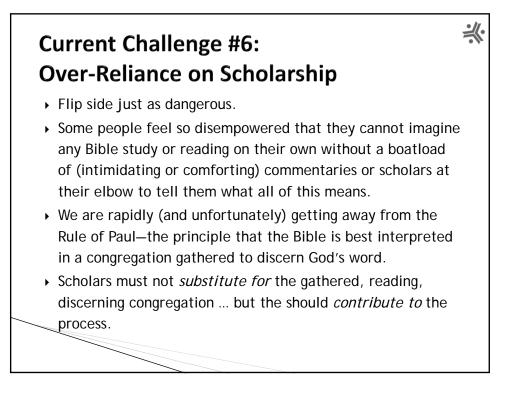


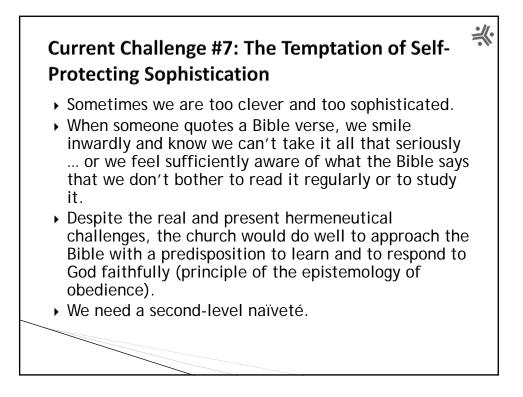








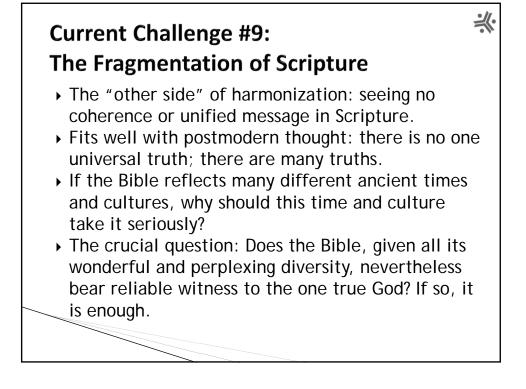


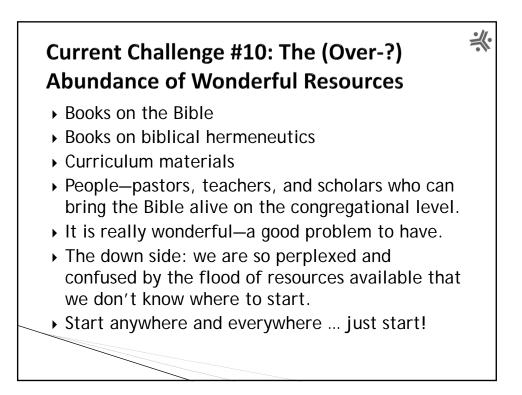


Current Challenge #8: The Harmonization of Scripture • Wonderful debates in Scripture, and not just between OT & NT.

- Debates between OT authors and between NT authors are more intense and interesting than any between the OT and NT.
- We are comfortable with harmonizing, pretending as if every passage is saying the same thing in different ways. We have blinded ourselves to the real-live debates about ethical issues that God gave us in the Scriptures and the unique literary artistry of each author.
- These debates tell us something about living with
 - the capability of Scripture to mean more than one thing
 - ambiguity as the people of God (what happens if we don't know truth?)
 - rereading and reinterpreting scripture for a new situation

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Current Challenge #11: Lack of Good Experience

- Experience contributes significantly to who we are.
- Experience contributes significantly to how we think.
- We learn from our own ... and from others'.
- Powerful experiences (good ones and bad ones) shape us—our values, our passions, our priorities.
- Good experiences with the Bible encourage us to come back for me.
- Bad experiences with the Bible encourage us to look elsewhere.
- Here is a call for the faithfulness of the pastors: try to give your people good experiences with the Bible.

Where Are We Today ... and Why?

Historical Developments

- 1. The Enlightenment
- 2. The Modernist/Fundamentalist Debate
- 3. Postmodernism
- 4. The Rise of the Inductive Method
- 1. What responses do you have to presentation? What is helpful? What is problematic?
- 2. What is missing in these lists?

Current Challenges

- 1. Biblical Illiteracy
- 2. Busyness and Nonuse
- 3. Lack of Patience
- 4. Relativistic existentialism
- 5. Under-reliance on scholarship
- 6. Over-reliance on scholarship
- 7. Self-protective sophistication
- 8. Harmonization of Scripture
- 9. Fragmentation of Scripture
- 10. Abundance of Resources
- 11. Lack of Good Experience