

Why the Christian Uses the Old Testament

Dialogue - Channel 6

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MacRae, Taylor, Dillard

AAM It is impossible to understand the NT or to really see the true bearing of the OT unless you have the other testament. We need them both to make a foundation for Christianity.

Aldrich But doesn't the NT sort of supplant the OT and give us the fulness of revelation whereas there is only a partial revelation in the Old?

AAM No, I would say that the whole of the Bible is God's revelation. But I would say that the teaching of the NT is contained in the OT. But the OT is explained by the NT and you need both of them together to get the whole meaning.

Aldrich Would you say the converse is true in a sense too? That the NT is explained by the OT? Or wouldn't that be fair?

AAM I think it is true, that each explains the other.

Dillard In a sense can you pose the false dilemma with your first question now? The OT as the Jewish canon as opposed to the NT. Of course the church has traditionally thought of the one canon of Scripture as being its canon, both Old and New Covenants, and when the question comes as to why the church is interested in the Old -- we do indeed have one canon of Scripture. When you talk about the OT, you're talking about over 3/4 of the canon! And certainly in terms of modern church life, it is the ? well understood.

Aldrich To what do you attribute that? something that ignorant of ink terms of modern church life. There is more of a lip service to it as the Word of God, than ~~xxxxxxx~~ too much actual in-depth study. Maybe that's unfair, but

Taylor Among other things it may be that the OT is less immediately didactic than the New. I'm not really sure how far that goes, but take all the histories and the narratives and books of the OT -- important and meaningful to us, but they are not quite as specific in their directional content as the NT in which we have a more emphatic and shortened form of specific command. That probably helps.

Dillard Even more pointed, I would think in some sense, is that the church looks at the NT in terms of its own proclamation of inaugurating a new age and therefore while both testaments are canonical for us, the are both Scriptures of the church, the age in which we live is that age of the new covenant and for that reason that we look at the new covenant as being the fulfillment of the Old, certainly the attention of the church is going to be more specifically on the new covenant, and I think that . . .

Aldrich Of what value is the study of the Old Covenant with its history and traditions and laws back in a new dispensation what need have we to be terribly concerned about the Old?

AAM I don't think we can expect that all of God's teachings can be put in one short book like the NT. = We have our great truths of salvation