

Caribbean Graduate School of Theology

Biblical Theology

Lecture 5 – BT's Task and Structure

January 2021 - Sheldon Campbell

Our first principal reads: a Theology of the New testament must allow the New testament itself to dictate its theme and presentation (p. 1).

Our second principle is there for runs the Theology of the New testament must do justice to both the historical claims to Revelation and the ecclesiastical significance of the New testament Canon (p. 5).

Our third principal results directly from this: to the extent that a Theology of the New testament takes its orientation and task from the New testament itself, it must respect and work through a special rooting of the New testament message of faith in the Old testament (p. 6).

Three considerations (p. 9):

1. The New testament authors concentrate their use of holy scriptures on the prophets especially, Isaiah, the Psalms, and the Pentateuch. For this day generally rely on the text of the Septuagint. the Septuagint versions of these texts were there for of great importance for the formation of the New testament message of faith.
2. The letters of Paul and the Gospel of John show that important New testament authors used the writings of the Septuagint in Christian instruction.
3. Rabbinic tradition proceeds from the false assumption that Hebrew Biblical Canon was already closed under Ezra and Nehemiah.

These observations lead to two conclusions.

The first concerns the Christian form of the Old Testament. From a New Testament perspective, the early Christian Old Testament does not simply consist of the Hebrew Bible but also encompasses the scriptures contained in the Septuagint (pp. 9-10).

The second conclusion is a corollary of the first: Jesus established a continuity of confession between the Old and New Testaments (p. 11).

Jesus and all the essential New Testament authors were Jews by birth. The Gentile mission also began in the Jewish synagogues where it focused special attention on the Gentile "God-fearing" or "God worshippers" who had remained uncircumcised (p. 11).