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SPECIAL REVELATION

The Bible is a Special Revelation from God. It is often called God's love letter to mankind.

–Supernatural disclosure to humans to something related to human existence or the world.

Secular philosophy regards it as pure semantics and word games used to manipulate our emotions. We regard it as the Written Word of God. As Christians we believe that Scripture is God-breathed (2Ti 3:16 Theopneustos means "God-breathed") and written by various men of God through history. We now have a finished work called the Bible.

But... what does it mean?

A FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING OF MEANING

Six causes of meaning & Meaning as it is applied to text. 1. The efficient cause

The writer is the efficient cause of the meaning of a text.

2. The final cause

The writer's purpose is the final cause of its meaning.

3. The formal cause

The writing is the formal cause of its meaning. Meaning is Found in the Formal Cause

4. The material cause

The words are the material cause of its meaning.

5. The exemplar cause

The writers ideas are the exemplar cause of its meaning.

6. The instrumental cause

The laws of thought are the instrumental cause of its meaning.

A text's meaning is not found beyond the text (in the author's mind), or beneath the text (in the mystic's mind), rather it is found in the text (in the author's expressed meaning).

(Dr. Norman Geisler, Systematic Theology, Vol. 1, pp.105-106)

COLOSSIANS 3:1-11

1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.