

Thursday, April 25, 2024

"The Bible is its own best interpreter." In other words, we should let the Bible tell us what *IT* means, rather than trying to be creative in our own insights. After all, God is the author, why not let Him speak for Himself.

But sometimes we miss the little nuances and explanations that God Himself provides. I was once preparing for our Sunday School lesson on 1 Kings 7. So I researched some of the implements made for use in Solomon's temple. When I got to the 10 basins formed for use around the exterior of the temple, the only thing I could find was that "they were for *washing*." I assumed that they were then similar to the laver, or "sea" used by the priests for personal washing before service in the temple - so that's what I taught the class. These must have been for the worshippers who had come to purify themselves.

But after class, one lady approached me and shared a small verse from her study Bible out of 2 Chronicles which my study resources had missed.

2 Chronicles 4:6 "He also made ten basins in which to wash, and he set five on the right side and five on the left to rinse things for the burnt offering; but the sea was for the priests to wash in."

The 10 smaller basins were indeed for washing, but they weren't only for the people, they were to be used to cleanse the animals for sacrifice. A little point, explained by God's Word, but missed by many human eyes, including my own. I read that passage over several times, grateful for God's clarification...and for the wonderful eyes and instruction given by one of the class. God reminded me that every teacher must be willing to learn... and every student of God's Word can teach. As Martin Luther once observed, "A simple layman armed with Scripture is greater than the mightiest pope without it."