"Text-Driven Trajectory: Prescription and Correction from the Ministry of Charles Simeon"

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**Overview**

Simeon's perspective regarding the primacy of Scripture, particularly as it relates to interpretation and application, is both prescriptive and corrective for Evangelicals in the 21st century. His aim to do careful exegesis and his abhorrence for any hint of eisegesis are prescriptive for preachers today. Additionally, his insistence on the primacy of Scripture offers a corrective to those who might attempt to impose their personal preferences or preconceived systems on the Bible. This has particular relevance in light of the seemingly heightened tensions between those of the Calvinistic and non-Calvinistic persuasion. Perhaps his "allegiance" to the text, both in interpretation and application, has distinct implications for modern preachers. After a brief biographical sketch, specific attention is given to three key areas in which Simeon's perspective on Scripture seems to have had an impact. These are his "radical biblicism," homiletical pedagogy and pastoral perseverance. Simeon perhaps could be called the great-grandfather of text-driven preaching. His commitment to the primacy of Scripture lends substantial support to such a designation.

I. Biographical Information

-born at Reading on 9/24/1759

-began studies at Cambridge 1778

-conversion during Passion Week at Cambridge 1779

-appointed minister of The Church of the Holy Trinity in Cambridge 1782

-served the church in Cambridge for 54 years

-died on 11/13/1836 in his rooms at King's College

II. Radical Biblicism

-Bible his life-long companion

-defines himself as a moderate Calvinist

-taking the Scriptures with the simplicity of a child

-example of John 5:40 and John 6:44

-conformity to Scripture

-the "wheels of your watch"

-Bible-Christians and not System-Christians

III. Homiletical Pedagogy

-role of Claude's Essay on the Composition of a Sermon

-beginning in 1792, taught more than 1100 Anglican preachers

-aims of preaching: humble the sinner, exalt the Savior, promote holiness

-unity of design, perspicuity of arrangement, simplicity in diction

-categorical proposition

-character, arrangement and spirit; connection to text-driven preaching

-Horae Homileticae 1832

IV. Pastoral Perseverance

-unpopular pastoral appointment

-pew-doors locked, aisle-chairs thrown into street, frequent interruptions

-"The servant of the Lord must not strive. We must not mind a little suffering ..."

-"Talk not of myself. Speak evil of no man."

-change after 10 years

-minister and lecturer 1794

-54 years as pastor