Lemma Degefa

Omega Graduate School

Dr. Ken Schmidt

August 22, 2023

Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements

1. Write a three-paragraph essay responding to the following question:

When have you noticed your pre-judgments influencing your interpretations? How have you experienced a "fusion of horizons" in your learning experiences?

**Pre-judgments influencing interpretations**

I have experienced personal pre-judgements and fusion of horizons several times in studying and teaching the Bible. My cultural worldview and my lack of hermeneutical skill have caused me to look at the Bible through biased lenses, therefore, miss the authentic intention of the Word of God.

Two decades ago, when I made the first step of faith, my immediate burning desire was to be filled by the Holly Spirit. I was selectively reading Bible verses that mention the filling and the work of the Holy Spirit. The book of Acts chapter two was the text I frequently read. I was trying to be and to do what is described in those Bible verses. Emphatically, I was literally expecting to hear a sound in the sky and a fire to fall up on me from heaven. I still remember feeling the warmth and a whisper of sounds all around me, exerting as much effort as I can to qualify to be filled by the Spirit. At that point, my prove to be filled by the Holy Spirit was to speak in tongues. Unfortunately, my expectation was in vain at the time. I felt guilty for not believing enough to receive the gifts of the Holly Spirit.

As a child, I grew up observing spirit-possessed individuals in my village where people used to worship those spirits by bringing blood sacrifice to them. The more people performed, the stronger the spirit manifested itself. It’s, thus, evident that I brough that same worldview to my Christian life. In addition to this, the lack of hermeneutical literacy has obstructed me from proper understanding and practice of my Christian life. In short, my cultural worldview had dictated my process of interpreting the Bible, which led me to wrong perceptions and actions. Even today, I’m aware that my cultural biases interfere with my biblical interpretation. I hope this course will equip me with skills that would help overcome my personal limitations in understanding the Word of God.