COM 803-12: Hermeneutics and Communication

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August 22, 2023

Professor

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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?

I have been a Christian all my life, with variations of Christian immersion and withdrawal based on my faith journey and experience. Though I have been exposed to the ideas of Christian or faith based schooling, I have never enrolled before now. My pre-judgement has always been that the quality of the academics would be lacking and there would be a heavy reliance on religious education. This pre-conceived notion has been with me since I was a teenager, and the fusion of my cousin’s horizon did not help. My cousin attended a faith based institution, she did not do well academically and blamed it on the overemphasis on religious classes rather than academic studies. For my immature, inexperienced mind, faith based institutions meant poor academics. It did not help that the two faith based institutions that operated at the time were ranked low for academics and were considered failing schools by the Ministry of Education. This impacted my worldview and subjective understanding.

This new horizon and introduction of the Omega Graduate school experience has created a transformative perspective about faith based institutions and expanded my worldview. Its integration of sociological epistemology and faith based ideology is the right mix for faith integration, the focus on real world problems and social research from both perspectives is encouraging and has deepening my perspectives and pre-judgment about faith based institutions. When I first found Omega Graduate School online, read its objectives and watched videos about the pedagogical and rigorous academic and faith infused methodology, I was blown away. Experiencing the institution thus far has created a “fusion of horizons” that has transformed my thinking about faith based institutions and faith based learning.

Gadamer explains this transformation of hermeneutical understanding as a fusion of horizons. “For Gadamer, one’s encounter with the text is never totally abstract; rather, one brings to the texts a set of prejudices, presuppositions, and preconceived notions which are (ideally) challenged and engaged in the process of reading. One brings one’s horizon of understanding into dialogue with a text, and, in this process, one’s horizon is challenged, expanded, and changed” (Knotts, 2014, pp. 235).

WORKS CITED

Knotts. (2014). *Readers, Texts, and the Fusion of Horizons: Theology and Gadamer’s*

 *Hermeneutics*. Acta Universitatis Carolinae. Theologica, *4*(2), 233–246. <https://doi.org/10.14712/23363398.2015.6>