

Can We Understand The Bible Alike?

(John 8:32)

- Introduction:
1. You know as well as I do that the Bible is one of the most misunderstood books in the world.
 2. It is so often misunderstood that it has caused some people to question whether it is possible to understand the Bible Alike.
 3. Now, I would like to answer that question in the affirmative, and offer suggestions concerning how this can be accomplished.

I. Implications If We Cannot Understand The Bible Alike

- A. There can be no unity.
 1. (John 17:20-21).
 2. (1 Corinthians 1:10).
- B. It insults the wisdom of God.
 1. (2 Peter 1:20-21).
 2. (1 Corinthians 2:1-4, 13).
 3. "You can prove anything by the Bible."
- C. It contradicts clear Bible teaching.
 1. (John 8:32).
 2. (Ephesians 5:17).
 3. (1 John 5:13).
 4. (Matthew 22:29).
 5. (2 Peter 3:15-16) "Some things hard to understand."

II. We Do Understand The Bible Alike

- A. To an extent that many people are unaware, we already do understand the Bible alike.
- B. (Genesis 3:1-6) What kind of fruit?
- C. (Exodus 3:1-5) What kind of bush?
- D. (John 8:3-9) What did Jesus write?
- E. (John 3:1-5) Why by night?
- F. (2 Corinthians 12) What was his thorn?
- G. While there are a few exceptions, the disagreement people have today are for the most part, over matters that are not recording in the Bible. Matters of opinion.

III. Factors That Help Us Understand The Bible

- A. Importance of Context.
 1. Who is speaking (Matthew 12:25; Job 2:4; Acts 5:33-39).
 2. Who is addressed (Exodus 20:8; Genesis 6:14).
 3. Why was it written (1 Corinthians 1:14; Revelation 1:1-3).
- B. Acknowledge the natural divisions of the Bible.
 1. (2 Timothy 2:15).

2. Old Testament - (Law, History, Poetry, Prophets).
3. New Testament - (Biography, History, Epistles, Prophecy).
- C. Recognize the employment of figurative language.
 1. Metaphor - (Luke 13:31-32; John 6:41; Mark 14:22-24).
 2. Synecdoche - Part put for whole (Acts 5:9; Acts 20:7).
 3. "When the normal sense makes good sense, seek no other sense, lest it result in nonsense.
- D. A willingness to really study.
 1. (2 Timothy 2:15).
 2. (Acts 17:11-12).

IV. Factors That Hinder Us From Understanding The Bible

- A. Reading the Bible to prove an already believed position (Jeremiah 10:2-5).
- B. A desire to find something new.
- C. Closed minded (Matthew 13:15).
- D. Some don't love the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10-11).
- C. Efforts to harmonize the Bible with science.
- D. Accepting the words of another man without checking for oneself.

- Conclusion:
1. While there are some things we will never know (Deuteronomy 29:29), and there are some things that are difficult to understand (2 Peter 3:15-16), there are some things that can and must be understood if we are to be pleasing to God.
 2. (Isaiah 35:8).
 3. God wants us to be saved, thus he has revealed himself to us in a way that we can understand.