

Can We Understand The Bible Alike? (Part 2)

TEXT: “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.” (Eph. 5:17). Also, “This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:” (Eph. 4:17, 18)

THESIS:

INTRODUCTION:

1. In the previous sermon, we noted:
 - a. That man can understand secular matters alike.
 - b. Also we noticed that God demands that we see the Bible alike.
 - i. Paul said, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you**; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (1 Cor. 1:10)
 - c. However, it is unfortunate that the creeds of men contradict unmistakable or plain passages in the Scriptures.
 - d. Therefore it can be said that, it is not because men cannot see the Bible alike, they simply will not do it or else have become deceived.
 - i. Remember what Jesus said, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, **thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee**, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!” (Matt. 23:37)
 - (1) God sent prophets to the people, yet they denied the truth of these prophets and destroyed them.
 - ii. Likewise, people also treated Christ in this same way because John records, “Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; **but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue**: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.” (Jn. 12:42, 43)
 - iii. For, “Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.” (Lk. 8:12)
 - iv. Remember, “the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” (2 Cor. 4:4)
 - e. Therefore, it must be concluded that if there are differences or contradictions in the word of God, then there can be no understanding of his will, but we know that God does not contradict himself.
 2. One is fully able to see that Catholics ignore scriptures. (Worship Mary, Calling Pope

father, Purgatory, remarriage for almost any reason, Etc . . .)

- a. Furthermore, Protestantism makes their best attempt to destroy the Bible and to defend their divisions. But, is this what God had in mind? Divisions (which are also called denominations, cults, sects, and other such names) are not part of God's plan.
 - b. In fact, Jesus is seen in John 17 praying for unity and that all may come to him and to know the Only True God.
3. Therefore, let us notice:
- a. An appeal to common sense.
 - b. An appeal to scripture
 - c. What is the cause of doctrinal differences and division?
 - d. What is the rule to follow

DISCUSSION:

I. AN APPEAL TO COMMON SENSE

- A. Suppose one preaches 10 conflicting doctrines.
 1. Can a person have 10 correct answers for only one question?
 - a. If so, I wish that someone would have taught me this trick when I was taking math classes in school.
 - b. The fact is, there is only one right answer for the right question because all 10 answers could not be right.
- B. Likewise, why would an answer be wrong for one man, if it is right for 10 different people?
 1. There was a man once who wanted to join all the churches together to get all the good from each one and to have preach all the doctrines. Does this sound like unity?
 - a. Imagine, taking the 3,000 different denominations, sects, cults, and churches in the United States and grouping them all together in one big building making a MEGA CHURCH, could God's will be done there?
 - b. The answer to this is **NO** because people would still be inclined to practice what they wanted and not necessarily what God commands.
- C. Likewise, why won't a Baptist begin to worship with Catholics and why won't Catholics worship with Mormons, etc . . .
 1. It is because there is something wrong with the things that some religious groups practice?
 2. Therefore, an honest soul cannot defend division by common sense because Christ commanded unity and that is just the opposite of religion today.

II. AN APPEAL TO SCRIPTURE

- A. Unity is beneficial and in harmony with the word of God.

1. The psalmist wrote, “**Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!**” (Psa. 133:1)
- B. Therefore, those who do not seek unity, have not the Spirit with them.
 1. For Christians, “are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” (Rom. 8:9)
 2. Jesus desired unity and, “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” (Jn. 17:21)
- C. Therefore, it comes down to this: **either we can or we cannot obey the Word of God.**
 1. Paul said, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, **and that there be no divisions among you**; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (1 Cor. 1:10)
 2. “Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.” (Phil. 3:16)
 3. “**Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.**” (Eph. 5:17)
 4. Therefore, if we cannot obey God’s will, then he demands the impossible.
- D. Notice God’s attitude toward confusion.
 1. “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” (1 Cor. 14:33)
 2. Solomon wrote, “These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, **A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.**” (Prov. 6:16-19)
 3. God said, “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.” (Rom. 16:17)
 4. For, “the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Gal. 5:19-21)
- E. So if unity is to be beneficial and in harmony with the word of God and it is possible according to the scriptures to obey and understand his will because he is not the author of confusion, then why are there so many divisions?

III. WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF DOCTRINAL DIFFERENCES AND DIVISION?

- A. God has never given mankind any right to exercise any liberties toward his Word.

1. “And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; **that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.**” (1 Cor. 4:6)
- B. Notice some examples of agreements and disagreements within various denominations:

<u>AGREEMENTS</u>	<u>DISAGREEMENTS</u>
God appeared to Moses	What kind of bush was it? (Exo. 3:1-4)
Paul had a thorn	What was the thorn? (2 Cor. 12:7)
Nicodemus came by night	What was the reason? (Jn. 3)

1. Henceforth, division are not caused by what the Bible teaches.
- C. Now, notice these examples of what the Bible says and what others say:

<u>WHAT IS SAID</u>	<u>WHAT OTHERS SAID</u>
Baptism by immersion (“down into the water” Acts 8:38)	Baptism by sprinkling, pouring. Where is the verse for this command?
Scriptural Subjects: Marriage, the Church, Love, Women’s Place in the Church, Deacons, Elders, Singing, Praying, Preaching, Faith, and many, many more.	The Sinner’s Prayer to replace baptism & Infants baptisms (However notice what Luke recorded: “when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ” Acts. 8:12) Now, Where is the verse for the Sinner’s Prayer or baby baptisms?
Scriptural Names: Church of Christ, Church of God, Church of the firstborn, Kingdom of Christ, Body of Christ, House of God, Bride of Christ	Human Names: Baptist, Methodist, Catholics, Jehovah Witness, Lutherans, Presbyterians, etc . . . (Notice that Luke wrote, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts. 4:12)

- D. The Bible’s teaching is clear.
1. Paul said, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and

- in the same judgment.” (1 Cor. 1:10)
2. “For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?” (1 Cor. 3:3, 4)
- E. Therefore, doctrinal differences and divisions happen because many do not given diligence or pay the proper attention to the word of God.
1. Paul said, “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” (Eph. 4:1-6)
 2. Therefore, is doctrinal differences and divisions, really necessary?

IV. WHAT IS THE RULE TO FOLLOW?

- A. Are we to “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” (1 Thess. 5:21)
1. Notice what Isaiah said, “To the law and to the testimony: **if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.**” (Isa. 8:20)
 - a. Therefore, where is the light in them that make divisions and teach opposite to God?
- B. We are to preach only that which is recorded.
1. Because, “The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, **that we may do all the words of this law.**” (Deut. 29:29)
- C. But, not only are we to preach only that which is recorded, we are also to preach all that is recorded.
1. Paul said in regards to his preaching, how he “kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,” (Acts. 20:20)
 2. Then he continues and said, “For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, **to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.** For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. **Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.** Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.” (Acts. 20:27-31)
- D. We are to add nothing and subtract nothing from the word of God.
1. “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this

book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” (Rev. 22:18, 19)

- E. Likewise, we are not to substitute anything.
1. Notice in Gen. 4:1-8, how Cain had no respect for God and because he did not do what God had commanded, Cain in his fury slew his brother Abel.
 2. Notice also how, “Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, **and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.** And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.” (Lev. 10:1, 2)
- F. Therefore, where is there room for doctrinal differences and divisions?
1. Are we not to, “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” (2 Tim. 4:2)
 2. Paul said in regards to teaching, “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” (2 Tim. 2:2)
 3. He also told young Timothy, “As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, **that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,**” (1 Tim. 1:3).

CONCLUSION:

1. The Bible and common sense demands that we all see alike.
 - a. One is not able to have many answers to one question.
 - b. Yet, this is exactly what divisions are which authorizes men to change that which God has said not to do.
 - c. God has called for unity because it is possible to obey and follow the truth if man will see the confusion in their own wisdom.
2. Therefore, religions must put aside their own differences and ask, “What does the Bible teach?”
 - a. And then follow the Bible because God does not demand the impossible or unnecessary.
 - b. He only ask all to abide only by the Bible.
3. To prove all things and teach what God has authorized instead of substituting or adding and subtracting from the word of God.