

Can We Understand The Bible Alike

TEXT:

THESIS: We can understand the Bible alike if we will only put our opinions in the trash and follow God only at his word.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Why do many smart men differ from each other?
2. They often affirm:
 - a. "We cannot see and understand the Bible alike."
 - b. Some may say, "I cannot see it that way."
 - c. Or others state, "I believe this, regardless."
3. In ordinary documents, men are expected to see alike, and do understand alike.
 - a. Physicist and chemist see the laws in science alike.
 - b. Builders see blueprints alike.
 - c. Druggists see prescriptions alike.
4. But, was God unable to speak so clearly as to be understood?
 - a. We must know that a word can have only one meaning in one place at a time.
 - b. Also, there are no contradictions in God's word nor is there anything ambiguous (meaning: being open to one or more interpretations).
 - c. Therefore, if we understand the Bible at all, we understand alike.
5. It is interesting to see that scholars in the Greek language see original meanings alike, yet uphold organizations that teach opposites.
 - a. For example: the form and design of baptism.
6. Henceforth, when studying the Bible, it becomes necessary to see that:
 - a. God demands unity of faith and practice.
 - b. To notice, Creeds vs. Bible: Is it because we cannot understand?
 - c. Why don't people see the Bible alike?

DISCUSSION:

- I. GOD DEMANDS UNITY OF FAITH AND PRACTICE
 - A. The Jews were not divided over the meaning of the Law of Moses.
 - B. With this said, it is clear that the scriptures tell us to be humble, but to others, the clarity becomes dark and unseen.
 1. Jesus said, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight." (Matt. 11:25, 26)
 - C. Christ anticipated that all would see alike.
 1. He said, "I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou

gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.” (Jn. 17:6-8)

- a. Jesus goes on to say, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” (Jn. 17:17)
 - b. “And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; **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. 17:19-21)
2. Therefore, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3)
 3. When we study the scriptures, it is clear that there has never been an apostle, prophet nor writer who taught anything that would divide Christians.
- D. Notice, the unity of the body.
1. Paul said, “For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.” (Rom. 12:4, 5)
 2. Again he says, “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. But now are they many members, yet but one body.” (1 Cor. 12:12, 20)
- E. Therefore, there are no distinctions from one Christian to another. They are simply, Christians.
1. “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” (Gal. 3:26-29)
- F. This is because Christians are all made into one.
1. We are brought together in Christ who broke down the wall of partition between the Jew and Gentile when the Old Law was abolished giving us all access to the Father being fellow citizens with the saints and the household of God which is built upon the foundations of the apostles, prophets and Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone by which Christians are all fitly built together. (Eph. 2:13-22)
 2. Therefore, since God’s word tears down partitions, he is unable to build them up and make divisions.
- G. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit demands unity.
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. This is why we are to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace because we know that there is only one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God and Father of all who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (Eph. 4:1-6)
 3. Therefore, "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;" (Phil. 1:27).
- H. We are to be of the same mind.
1. "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Rom. 15:4-6)
 2. Paul said, "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." (2 Cor. 13:11)
 3. For, "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." (Phil. 2:1, 2)
- I. This is how we can know that the letters to all the churches in the New Testament, taught unity.

II. CREEDS VS. BIBLE: IS IT BECAUSE WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND?

- A. In the Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 29:6, 10 states: "Thou fool, that shall say: A Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no more Bible. Have ye obtained a Bible save it were by the Jews? **Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written.**"
1. This book clearly tells us that man needs more than just the Bible.
 - a. However, listen to Jude: "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should **earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**" (Jude 1:3)
 - b. Furthermore, the apostle Paul said, "But **though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you**, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." (Gal. 1:8, 9)

2. Therefore, if the Holy Spirit told us in words that the system of faith (which is the word of God) has already been given, then what is the book of Mormon who was supposedly given to one man in secret by Moroni a so-called angel 1800 years later?
- B. Creed books (which are systems of principles and beliefs or the written body of teachings in a religious group) continue to be seen throughout the world.
1. One such creed book is, The Discipline of the Methodist Church which says that we are “justified by faith only.”
 - a. But the apostle Paul was not saved by faith only according to Acts 9.
 - b. Also, James wrote, “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” (Jam. 2:24)
 2. Again, on page 34 of the Discipline of the Methodist Church, it teaches about multiple baptisms: first the baptism of infants, then, the baptism of adults.
 - a. However, the Bible teaches that there is only one baptism. (Eph. 4:5)
- C. Now, another popular creed book is The Hiscox Standard Manual for Baptist Churches.
1. On page 60 of this book, it teaches that at birth one is totally deprived meaning that an infant is a sinner because of the sins from those who lived before that child.
 - a. Yet the Bible teaches, “The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son:” (Ezek. 18:20).
 - (1) Furthermore, Jesus said, “Except ye be converted, **and become as little children**, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 18:3)
 - (2) Likewise, he “said, **Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.**” (Matt. 19:14)
 - b. Now, if little children are sinners, why would Jesus ever want men and women to be like them?
 - (1) Therefore, it makes no sense for man in their creed books to call children totally deprived sinners, when Jesus calls them innocent.
 2. Again on page 61 of The Hiscox Standard Manual for Baptist Churches, it teaches that we are saved by grace alone.
 - a. But, Peter said unto them on the day of Pentecost, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38).
 - b. Paul said, “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:27), showing that grace alone cannot

- save.
3. Furthermore, on page 63 of The Hiscox Standard Manual for Baptist Churches, it teaches that only a direct operation of the Holy Spirit can save us.
 - a. But Jesus said, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (Jn. 8:32)
 - b. The apostle Peter said, “Seeing **ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth** through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.**” (1 Pet. 1:22, 23)
- D. Now, Martin Luther also made a creed book which Lutherans have adopted as a creed book entitled: Luther’s small catechism.
1. Inside the pages of this book mentions many of the things already noted by other creed books, but also adds that sprinkling only is required to be saved.
 2. However, when the Eunuch of Acts 8:36-39 desired to be baptized, we do not see Phillip bringing a cup of water up to the eunuch.
 - a. Instead, we read the eunuch went down into the water and was baptized.
- E. All of these creed books and many others not mentioned because of time, show man’s ignorant freedom of choice to change and to choose only what they desire out of God’s word by allowing themselves to make these books and to alter the Bible instead of following God at his word.
1. Jesus said, “**But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.** And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man. Then came his disciples, and said unto him, **Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?** But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.” (Matt. 15:9-13)
 - a. Notice that the Pharisees were offended when Jesus said that they were not following after God.
 - b. Likewise, when many are taught the truth contrary to their own books, they are offended.
 2. But, “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever.” (1 Pet. 4:11)
 3. It is terrible to see these creed books and then to remember that the apostle John said, “Whosoever **transgresseth** (which means the act of

disregarding laws and rules), **and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God.** He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.” (2 Jn. 9)

- F. “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)

III. WHY DON'T PEOPLE SEE THE BIBLE ALIKE?

- A. As mentioned before, in ordinary documents, men are expected to see alike, and do understand alike.
1. Physicist and chemist see the laws in science alike.
 2. Builders see blueprints alike.
 3. Druggists see prescriptions alike.
- B. However when it comes to the word of God, Satan blinds the minds of those who allow themselves to be blinded.
1. “Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; **But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully;** but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: **In whom 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. 4:1-4)
- C. In the Old Testament, people did not see God's word alike.
1. Nehemiah said, “Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy spirit in thy prophets: **yet would they not give ear:** therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands.” (Neh. 9:30)
- D. Furthermore, people do not see the Bible alike because they wilfully refuse the truth.
1. Luke recorded that people went unto others “Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: **For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.**” (Acts. 28:26, 27)
- E. People like this show wilful rejection.
1. Jesus said, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that **kildest 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)
2. Likewise John wrote, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." (Jn. 5:39, 40)
- F. With this said, men and women do not see the Bible alike because they love the praise of men.
1. "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)
- G. Man believes that worldly wisdom is above Godly wisdom.
1. However, open your Bibles to 1 Cor. 1:18-27.
 2. It is because of man's foolishness that many who claim to be religious make themselves to be "false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." (2 Cor. 11:13-15)
 3. Therefore, "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered." (Prov. 28:26)
- H. By this, how can we know we are right and not given to our own opinions?
1. USE THE STANDARD which is the word of God.
 2. This is our reference point against which opinions, creed books and the unity of faith and practice can be evaluated.

CONCLUSION:

1. Therefore, making the statement, "Can we understand the Bible alike" is not a matter of can't.
 - a. For, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mk. 16:16)
 - b. We have to be able to ask ourselves, "What does the Bible say?"
2. It is not about, "The way I see it" nor is it about, "How you see it," but it is how God commands it.
3. Men and women must see and follow the Bible alike because it is possible to understand it and understanding the Bible alike is what God demands!