

Studies in the Scriptures

Can We Understand the Bible Alike?

One of the biggest lies that Satan tells mankind today is that we cannot understand the Bible alike. Notice that the question above is not, "Do we understand the Bible alike?", but rather, "Can we understand the Bible alike?" Please consider carefully the following points developed from the Word of God. Don't be deceived into thinking that God accepts religious division today based on the false notion that we cannot understand His Word.

Since God determined to reveal His message to us in written form, it is *God's doing* that we have the Bible containing His Will. Think about it, did the God of heaven reveal a book to us that cannot be understood? IF we can understand the Bible *properly* on any given subject, then we would understand it *alike*, wouldn't we? Since truth is not ambiguous (nor is it contradictory), when one comes to a knowledge of God's truth, he or she is in agreement with every other individual who properly understands God's revealed message on that subject.

While there are several passages of Scripture that teach this important truth, we will look to a few in this article to prove the point. In Jesus' day, He said, "*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" (John 8:32). Jesus was teaching that it was possible for them to know the truth! When Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, he stated, "*How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;*" (Eph. 3:3-5). Paul teaches us that when we read his inspired epistles we can understand his knowledge in the mystery of Christ. Lastly, when Paul wrote to the young evangelist Timothy, he stated, "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" (2 Tim. 2:15). Was Paul asking something of Timothy that was not possible? Certainly not! If we study to show ourselves approved unto God, if we are workmen that need not be ashamed, if we rightly divide the Word of God: *we will be understanding God's Word (alike). Thanks for reading!*
- by Mark J. Ward (markjward@yahoo.com)

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