

## ***“All” Can Understand The Bible***

It amazes me that still today there are many who think the word of God is some mystical book of dark sayings, that can't be understood by common folks like you and me. Over the years false teachers have more or less indoctrinated people rather than teach the truth stating that even the most simple passage is some kind of deep mystery that only the elite can understand properly. A perfect example is that if a Bible passage contradicts some much-loved false doctrine of man the advocates of said doctrine will dismiss the passage saying, "We cannot understand it," or some other clearly illogical statement. Lets use Acts 2:38 as an example when quoted or read without comment to prove that baptism is for the remission of sins, many will retort "That's not the way I see it" or "that is just your interpretation." These statements have led many to believe that the Bible can't be understood because men differ on what is stated rather than taking the word as it is written.

Erroneous as it is to think that men can't understand the Bible you will here folks say we can't understand because there are "Some" that do not understand it. Furthermore, its completely absurd to say we can't understand any of the word because we do not perfectly understand all of of the word. I am the first to admit there are some things hard to understand. 2 Peter 3:15-17 says *“And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.”* Take note here that some things, NOT all, are hard to understand, yet NOT impossible. Hard things simply require more study and effort.

Still even today the Catholics, Protestants and others will tell you ordinary men are not capable of understanding the word of God, thus a specially trained priest or preacher is needed to explain what God said. Think about that carefully, these uninspired men are the only ones who can understand what God, Christ and the Spirit-guided apostles said. This is utterly ridiculous. You have to ask how is it these so-called educated preachers and priests are more intelligent and more capable than God, Christ and Apostles? They elevate man above God. We can always assist one another in study pointing out what the word says and

discussing it, yet it is still not necessary to have man's explanation.

The Holy Spirit guided the apostles into all truth, speaking to and through them, revealing the will of God to man. (John 16:13.) They did not choose and use words of man's wisdom, but words that the Spirit taught (Acts 2:1-4.) Keep in mind that thousands understood these words without having an interpreter to explain the apostles preaching (1 Cor. 2:13.) We have those same words from the same apostles in the written word, and yes we can understand just as the thousands understood then.

The apostle Paul stated, *"If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: 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. 3:2-5.) So to say one can't understand what was written denies this passage and charges God with the inability to give His creation the word in an understandable message.

The very definition of the word used to describe God's word, "revelation," asserts that one can know what the Bible teaches. If man could not understand the Bible, then it is not a revelation! God has affirmed that men can understand his word, he also commands men to understand it. Paul wrote, *"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."* (Eph. 5:17). Ask yourself would God command of us that which is impossible? Men can understand the Bible. Paul affirmed that men can understand his knowledge in the mystery of Christ by the reading of the word.

Many other passages emphasize that men can understand the Bible. Christ expected those in his day to read and understand the apocalyptic words of Daniel (Matt. 24:15). Paul told the church at Thessalonica to *"prove all things and hold fast to that which is good"* (1 Thess. 5:21), he expected them to be able to discern good and evil. Ezra read from the Scriptures, the men of his day understood them (Neh. 8:7-12). Men were said to know the truth in New Testament times (1 Tim. 4:3; Col. 2:1-3; Heb. 10:26; 2 Pet. 2:20-22).

Christ plainly made salvation conditional upon knowing the truth. He said, *"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* (John 8:32). The

truth about which he was speaking was his word. One not only can know the truth, to obtain forgiveness of his sins, he must know the truth.

God's commands have always been and ever will be simple and easy to be understood. Name one command of God that men cannot easily understand. Every command that is necessary for one to become and remain a faithful Christian is so clear that no honest soul can possibly misunderstand. Read the following list of God's requirements to become a Christian and observe the simplicity of the gospel.

One must believe in God (Heb. 11:6), believe in Christ (John 8:24), repent of sins (Luke' 13:3), confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33, Rom. 10:10), and be buried in baptism for the remission of sins. (Rom. 6:4; Acts 2:38.) The recorded cases of conversions in the scriptures prove that God's plan was clearly understood by the multitudes. It is still being understood and obeyed today.

It is man's failure to obey God that has caused the so-called impossibility of understanding the Bible, by his failure to read and believe it. Too many today are willingly ignorant of God's word because they choose their own way of life over Gods way. They want to practice their sins without a painful conscience, Thus they quit reading and studying rather than cease sinning.