

Words of

Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

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Can You Understand the Bible?

Some people do not read the Bible because they think it cannot be understood. Do you think that way?

The idea that we cannot all understand the Bible is wrong and dangerous. Why would God give us the Bible if we cannot understand it? Could Adam and Eve understand what God told them to eat and not eat (Genesis 2:16-17)? Could Moses understand what God expected him to do to part the Red Sea (Exodus 14:16)? Paul said "...when you read, you may understand" (Ephesians 3:4; 5:17).

God has always spoken in a way that can be understood by people who: WANT to understand (Matthew 13:15), WORK to understand (2 Timothy 2:15), are WILLING to do what they understand (James 1:25),

and PERSIST in learning and doing *these things* (2 Peter 1:8).

Not everyone believes you can understand the Bible and some religious leaders discourage people from reading the Bible. An "Archbishop" said "Is the Bible a book intelligible to all? Far from it..." (www.cathcorn.org/foof/8.html) Did this man expect us to be able to understand what *he wrote*? Then, why does he think we cannot understand what God wrote?

Yes, all CAN understand, but all do not understand. Why is that? Please read the next article below--

In This Issue:

- **Can You Understand the Bible?**
- **Do You Understand the Bible?**
- **How to Understand the Bible**
- **Can We Understand the Bible Alike?**

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Do You Understand the Bible?

Did you know God expects you to "...understand what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17)? Many people are frustrated when they read the Bible, so they give up and stop reading. In Acts 8:30-38 a man who did not understand part of the Bible at first, soon understood what he needed to do to become a Christian. Like him, do you want to learn?

If you do not understand the Bible, you need to discover the reason(s) why. Are you more interested in other things (sports, TV)? Have you just read a few paragraphs twice a week and then quit? Have you ignored the parts you understood but did not like? Have you started with the basics, like Genesis? Is it possible that you have been taught error in the past that is causing confusion in the present?

God will judge you based on these words and ignorance will not be an excuse (Acts 17:30-31). If you do not understand, begin today to do whatever is necessary to understand! The next article in this issue of "Truth and Reason" will discuss how to understand the Bible. Please keep reading on the back of this page.

How to Understand the Bible

Do you have to attend a Bible college to understand the Bible?

Have you ever followed a recipe? If you never used that recipe before, you probably read the same line several times throughout the cooking process to be sure you understood each step of the recipe before moving onto the next step. The Bible is not written in the form of a recipe, but it also requires careful reading, thought, and study.

How can you understand the Bible? The same basic way you understand other books. A basic rule is “start at the beginning.” The book of Genesis comes first for a reason—the word “Genesis” means “beginning.” Reading Genesis will introduce you to people and ideas that are essential to understanding the rest of the Bible. Start there!

A few weeks ago, we mentioned that God has always spoken in a way that can be understood by people who WANT to understand (Matthew 13:15), WORK to understand (2 Timothy 2:15), are WILLING to do what they understand (James 1:25), and PERSIST in learning and doing “these things” (2 Peter 1:8). This is a basic summary of how to understand the Bible. Can we help you in the process of studying the Bible? If so, contact us today!

Do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is...when you read you may understand
(Eph. 5:17; 3:4)

You are invited to:
Sunday AM Bible classes:
10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes
& Worship: 7:00 PM

Can We Understand the Bible Alike?

When people understand the Bible, they understand it alike. All who understand Genesis 1:1 agree that that it teaches that God is the Creator. If I say “I interpret that verse to mean that an angel created all things,” then my interpretation is wrong—I have not understood that verse. There is only one way to *understand* that verse, and if we understand it at all, then we have the same understanding.

“Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (Ephesians 5:17). Is God’s will for you different than it is for me on the subject of Jesus’ deity, faith, baptism, true worship, or the organization of the family? Is God pleased if we just “agree to disagree” on these subjects and continue teaching and practicing different things?

Satan is fooling people into believing that we cannot understand the Bible alike. This is one reason why there are so many different kinds of churches. If we all understand the Bible, would we have different teachings and practices? No, the same teachings *in every church* would unite us (1 Cor. 4:17). If we understand the Bible and obey it, unity will be the result. That is our goal—is it yours? Write and tell us!

Questions from this issue’s articles:

1. Name someone in the Bible who heard God’s word and understood what He said.
2. Why do some people not understand the Bible?
3. Name any two things that help us understand the Bible.
4. If two people have opposite ideas about some Bible verse, do they both understand that verse?

* Mail your answers to the church of Christ in Quail Valley 4104 E. Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501
OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**

* All past and current issues of *Truth and Reason* are available at our website—tell a friend!