

Scripture Consulting Essentials

September 14, 2020

Understanding the Word of God

II Timothy 3:16:

All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God [God-breathed], and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Psalm 33:6:

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

The Word of God expresses God's will to mankind. It is the manual that is essential for life.

Psalm 12:1-6.

God's words are as pure as silver tried in a furnace of earth seven times. Those pure words of God are powerful, true, just, reliable, and trustworthy. They do not come from a double heart. They have been refined, unlike the many words that men were speaking as stated in verses 1-4. The pure words of God have integrity. They bring deliverance. They are a relief to those who are oppressed by the bragging words of men who lie and deceive the humble.

Mark 7:1-13.

People today often give greater credence to the words of men and traditions of men than they do to the Word of God. They do not believe that the Word of God has integrity. They search for answers from multifarious sources and become confused, frustrated, and upset by arguments that have no basis in truth. Most people today are taught to fear and to worry about their health, their security, and their relationships with other people. They rely on unreliable people and systems hoping for answers. Believing what others have said, they sometimes go to the Scriptures to find documentation for their opinions rather than approaching it to understand GOD'S WORD AND WILL.

II Peter 1:20 and 21.

Knowing this first.

No prophecy of the Scripture is of any private (one's own) interpretation.

Since God moved people to speak His Word, then the prophecy of the Scripture spoken forth or spoken out by these holy men of God is God's Word. God gave His Word to these holy men, and they spoke for God. Therefore, the Scriptures had one Author, Who is God, although there were many writers who wrote what the one Author told them to write.

Read to understand God's Word.

Psalm 119:130:

The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Proverbs 4:5-7:

Get wisdom, get understanding: forget *it* not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

The wisdom and understanding of God comes from God's Word, the words of His mouth. All Scripture is God-breathed. We read it for understanding and wisdom. The Scriptures are words that came from God with His intended purpose in mind. We must read WHAT IT SAYS in order to understand it.

Nehemiah 8:1-8.

Ezra and the Levites read God's Word distinctly, and they gave the sense of what they read, not a different sense. That caused them to understand what they read from God's Word.

Luke 24:44-47.

Jesus opened their understanding of the Scriptures by teaching them the Scriptures and giving the sense of the Scriptures.

Acts 17:1-3.

Paul reasoned from the Scriptures, not from tradition, philosophy, experience, opinion, or any other source.

II Corinthians 2:17.

The Greek word translated "which corrupt" in this verse is *kapēleuō*, which means "to sell or peddle adulterated or corrupt merchandise in a deceitful manner" as hucksters do. There were many people at that time who tried to pass off an adulterated or corrupt version of the Word of God as the genuine. They were deceitful in their teaching. However, the apostle Paul and his associates were not among them. They taught people the pure, unadulterated Word of God.

The Greek word translated "sincerity" in this verse is *eilikrineia*, which means "genuineness, as judged in the sunlight." Paul and his associates spoke with genuineness as judged in the sunlight.

The Scriptures as they were originally revealed were internally perfect and harmonious. They were without any errors, discrepancies, or deficiencies. However, when people add extraneous words or personal interpretation and opinion to the words in the Scriptures, it disrupts their understanding of the perfection and internal harmony of the God-inspired Scriptures. To understand the written Word of God, it is necessary to search the Scriptures and to allow the Scriptures as they were originally revealed to speak for themselves.

As we read God's Word, we ought to set aside our opinions and beliefs that have come from sources outside of God's Word. We should read exactly what the Word of God says in the verse and its context as well as other passages dealing with the same subject or event. We also need to be careful to recognize passages that are similar but dealing with a different subject or event. It is also important to understand any peculiarities of language including figures of speech and customs that were used by the holy men of God who wrote what God told them to write. We should watch to whom and pertaining to whom the words in a passage are written. We may also need to look at older texts due to corruptions in the texts and translations that exist today. If we are not able to find an answer to our query, then it would be proper to say "I do not know" rather than to express an opinion based on conjecture.

These are essential considerations for understanding the Word of God. Above all, we must recognize that God is the Author of His Word and that His Word has integrity. All Scripture is God-breathed. As the words in God's Word were originally revealed, they were the pure words of God. Those pure words of God are essential for life, and those words give us light and understanding.