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Studying the Bible

All Scripture Quotes from the (Authorized) King James Bible

If you have believed in the gospel as stated in 1 Corinthians 15:1 – 4 and trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior He commands you to study and search the scriptures. It is NOT a suggestion or request, Yeshua **COMMANDS** us to **SEARCH**:

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me

The whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation the Lord Jesus Christ is the central person and also to get to know Him and His father better!

Bible believers need to follow the example of the Bereans as stated in the Book of Acts Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

We also have to rightly divide the truth as not all of scripture can be applied today!

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

We do not want to be caught in ignorance like the chief priests and the elders of the people in the Temple questioning the Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 21:42 Jesus saith unto them, **Did ye never read in the scriptures**, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

The Apostle Peter even gave a good reason to be knowledgeable in the Scriptures

1 Peter 3:15 be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you...

We need to know the Scriptures also because the battle for the Eternal Destiny of Mankind is a spiritual battle! That is the bottom line!

2 Corinthians 2:10 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

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Ephesians 6:11 – 17 **11** Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. **13** Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. **14** Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; **15** And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16** Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. **17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

We need also to study the Scriptures as a History of Man, but for the believer's Personal Edification; facing moral choices, life challenges, and quite frankly, situations that are applicable to us even today.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

We need to diligently study the Scriptures to **avoid error!**

1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Titus 2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

The Benefit of Knowing God's Word; The Bible remains the only source of divine revelation and power that can sustain you as a Believer in your walk with God and His Only Begotten Son the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible is the source of:

Truth

John 17:17 Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.

God's blessing

Luke 11:28 But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Victory over the Devil

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:

Growth

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Hebrews 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

Power

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Guidance

Psalms 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

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Wisdom from God

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Keep the believer away from sin

Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Keep in mind that the Lord Jesus Christ says

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

This next part of the Blog is focusing on proper interpretation as well as rightly dividing the Word of God.

When you separate completely the nation of Israel even in the New Testament from the Church, the Body of Christ then all the contradictions disappear. All of the major questions disappear. And everything becomes so sensible. The Bible is a sensible Book and it makes sense IF you simply keep these two areas (the nation of Israel and the Body of Christ, the Church) separated.

As you study your Bible remember that **God primarily deals with Israel**, the Hebrew/Israelite/Jew from Abraham to the writings of Paul. But when you come into the letters of Paul, he speaks primarily to the non Hebrew/Israelite/Jew, or Gentiles, and he addresses us today in the Age of Grace (Some call it the Church Age). When you read Romans through Philemon (Paul's 13 Books), you read that as if God has written it to you with your name and address on it. But when you read the Old Testament, don't try to put that into your life today, because that was written to and given to the nation of Israel. **We can use it for our learning, but not for our doctrine**. Yes you can apply some of the Old Testament to today!

What does God's Word say? What does it REALLY say! And just as important what it does NOT say. I have found so many times where people THINK it says something that it does not say.

What does the Word really say, and we also have to realize what it does not say.

Be not deceived! The Bible can easily be twisted to support false doctrines. Look at Christendom today for proof! Among those who **PROFESS** Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior there are as many conflicting doctrines as there are denominations and sects!

2 Peter 3:16 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.

2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

But with the help of the Holy Spirit genuine believers are able to discern the truth if they truly seek it!

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1 John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him.

teacheth – continuous tense

A classic example of Scripture being twisted is found in Acts 2:38, where Peter says unto the Jews/Nation of Israel, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Pouncing upon the word "for" and taking it to mean "in order to receive," Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Baptists, Pentecostals, Charismatics and Protestants (BTW, where is the protest?) are adamant in insisting one must be baptized in order to secure the remission of sins! Peter was addressing the men of Israel! NOT Gentiles! (Acts 2:22)

Acts 2:5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

Acts 2:22 Ye men **of Israel**, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Peter addressed ISRAEL! NOT THE BODY OF CHRIST OR THE CHURCH!

Read all of Acts 2 as it states Jews from all over the world (Remember Assyria around 722 B.C. took the 10 Tribes/Northern Kingdom captive and scattered them and around 605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, besieged Jerusalem and took the House of Judah (Judah and Benjamin) captive as you can read the book of Daniel!

While on the other hand Independents **like me** understand the word "for" in this instance to mean "because of" or "with reference to" the remission of sins. It is obvious the English language allows a dual interpretation here and that fact is most unfortunate. To determine beyond doubt what is actually being said, one must "rightly divide the Word of truth" by paying close attention to such things as context and the "5-W's" (who, what, where, why, when). Scripture must be compared with Scripture and all conclusions must fit with the whole of Scripture. The bottom line is that the Word of God does NOT and will NOT contradict itself if properly interpreted. And if there appears to be a contradiction between two or more passages, we had best seek the aid and instruction of the Holy Spirit because we are on shaky ground!

Scripture teaches salvation is by faith plus nothing! Secondly, the Greek word translated "for" in Acts 2:38 is **εις (eij – pronounced ice)** an indefinite preposition of reference and is often translated "to" or "unto" throughout the New Testament; clearly indicating its function of reference.

Faith plus NOTHING!

Ephesians 2:8 – 9 **8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **9** Not of works, lest any man should boast.

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Works denotes any act, or deed, on our part. The context of Ephesians 2:8 – 9 the term refers specifically to acts, deeds, etc. The Apostle Paul also speaks against the **heresy of works** for salvation in the Book of Titus:

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Baptists are known for insisting on a sequence of salvation first and baptism later (to join their church) and Acts chapter 10 is one of many examples they use without rightly dividing that this was for the Nation of Israel for the Gospel of the Kingdom and NOT the Gospel as shown in 1 Corinthians 15:1 – 4!

Acts 10:44 – 47 **44** While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. **45** And they of the **circumcision** (That is Israelites/Hebrews/Jews!) which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. **46** For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, **47** Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?"

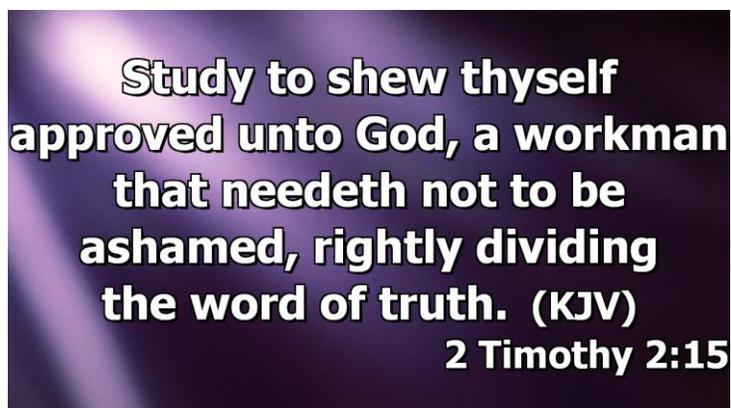
We see here the Gentiles have even heard the Gospel of the Kingdom and believed!

For these people in the **Gospel of the Kingdom** era, baptism clearly came after the reception of the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit takes up residence, the individual is born again, period! So we want to stress that baptism is as important step of obedience to the Lord's command, but it does not save. Pentecostals and Charismatics like using this verse also for their twisted interpretation of the "Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues".

As far as the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Protestant teaching of "baptismal regeneration" Is another false doctrine (like all others) came about by someone bringing a **preconceived notion** to the Word of God and lifting "proof texts" to support it. When such things are done, the principle that Scripture does not contradict Scripture is always violated.

In closing, the bottom line is:

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.



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approved unto God, a workman
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2 Timothy 2:15**