

A God Given Understanding

Have you ever noticed that some people look at and understand scripture completely differently? You can talk about scripture with them, and you think they understand, but the next time you have another discussion about scripture, the same issues are talked about. It's like water rolling off a duck's back; it just doesn't seem to sink in. I'm not talking about a slight difference of interpretation. I'm talking about the understanding of scripture in general.

Interpreting scripture out of context is a big problem. I know a lot of people that can memorize whole books of the Bible almost word for word, but they still don't understand scripture. Maybe it's because of spiritual blindness?

2 Corinthians 4:3 says, "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost."

2 Corinthians 4:4 says, "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

2 Corinthians 4:6 says, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

Also read 2 Corinthians 3:14-17. A person won't understand the scripture until they have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior! It is not with water baptism or anything else, but by believing the gospel unto salvation (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Then, the spiritual blindness will disappear.

John 14:17 says, "Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

In Luke 24:31, we read, "And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight."

Luke 24:32 says, "And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?"

Luke 24:45 says, "Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures."

Ephesians 1:17-19 says, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power."

See? We can't just grab the Bible and think that we will understand it. We have to have a God-given, spiritual understanding (salvation is a free gift according to Ephesians 2:8,9)

John 20:9 says, "For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead."

Luke 18:34 says, "And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken."

It's obvious that there's more to it than just picking up a Bible and thinking we will understand scripture. We must also pray for Jesus to open our hearts and minds and to help us to understand and discern scriptures, Bible studies, etc. If we have a closed mind that's already made up on how we will believe before we pick up the Bible, we are wasting our time to even attempt to read it.

Are we reading scripture to memorize it, or to learn from it? It's very important because the Bible is also written for false teachers. How will we discern what we are hearing in church if we don't know what the Bible says? Are we just trusting in what we hear to be the truth? How does it match with what the Bible says?

Some people believe that a preacher is automatically inspired by God, the question then is whether it is the gods of this world (Satan) or the real God?

2 Peter 2:1 says, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."

2 Peter 2:2 says, "And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."

Are you just following along? Or are you sure it matches the words of the Bible?

2 Peter 3:15 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;"

2 Peter 3:16 says, "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, (twist) as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

We must also learn how to rightly divide God's word.

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."

This is very important. This is why people that are spiritually blinded and don't understand the scriptures; it is because they are not born again. Do you know of Jesus? Or do you know Jesus? There's a big difference. In John 3:5, Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water (water sack in a natural birth) and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

John 3:6 says, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh (1st birth, natural); and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (2nd Birth, Holy Spirit) This is believing in the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 15:1 says, "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

1 Corinthians 15:2 says, "By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:3 says, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

1 Corinthians 15:4 says, "And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"

Romans 10:9 says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Romans 10:13 says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Once we have his Spirit in our hearts, the scriptures open up to us.

1 John 4:13 says, "Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit."

2 Corinthians 1:22 says, "Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

Also read 1 Thessalonians 4:8. We see that when we are born again by believing in the gospel, God will put his Spirit inside of us, then we will start to understand scripture a lot differently than we did before because we will be a new man.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. Do you see that?

We will become a new person. Praise the Lord! Do we as human beings not want to be approved of God?

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

Do you see what that says? It tells us to STUDY to be approved of God. Many people want to do things that they think will be pleasing to God, but many people won't even read their Bible let alone study it. Why not? Is it because someone doesn't think it's a good idea?

What are you going to say when it is just you and God standing there, and he asks you why you didn't you do as his book said? Are you going to say someone told you not to?

Galatians 5:7 says, "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?"

2 Timothy 2:7 says, "Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things."

Will we know everything once we have a spiritual understanding? No. It takes studying and meditation, but gradually you would be amazed at what you have learned; it's not as hard as most people think. There are plenty resources available to help people nowadays.

If anyone would be interested in learning more or doesn't know where to get help or to get started, please contact MAP Ministry, and they will help you.

I will close this with 1 John 5:20 which says, "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."