

WHY PEOPLE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE 201

Text: Hos. 4:5-7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We live in a spiritual wasteland.
- B. Woeful, willing, and wholesale ignorance of the Bible abounds.
- C. Why is the Bible so hard to understand?
- D. Was it impossible for God to give a book that the minds He created could understand?
- E. IT IS possible to understand the Bible?
 1. Jn. 8:32 **"You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"**
 2. Christians have the mind of God in written form.- 1 Cor. 2:12-13.
 3. God expects us too understand- 1 Cor. 1:10.
- F. God wants us to desire, dig into, divide, discern and learn His Word.
 1. Matt. 5:6 **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled..**
 2. 1 Pet. 2:2. **as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,**
 3. 2 Tim. 2:15 **"Study to show yourself approved . . ."**
 4. Jn. 6:44-45.
- G. By doing so:
 1. Freedom is gained- Jn. 8:32 **"You shall know the truth and the truth..."**
 2. Faith is attained- Rom. 10:17 **"So then faith comes..."**
 3. Access to the father is sustained,
 4. Man is perfected - 2 Tim. 3:17 **that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work..**
 5. Worldly things are neglected.
 - a. 2 Pet. 1:3-4.

- b. James 4:4
- c. 1 Jn. 2:15-17.

BODY: WHY ARE PEOPLE SO IGNORANT OF THE BIBLE?

I. THE OUT OF DATE KJV OF THE BIBLE.

- A. Some are trying to learn from the KJV, when they have no training in religious matters or 1611 English.
- B. There is nothing wrong with the KJV if you already have a religious education.
 - 1. Grew up with it. 2. Have had someone explain it.
- C. If you are new to Bible reading you are not going to be able to understand many of the words. And without a Bible dictionary you will be even more lost.
- D. Read the preface from Bible Words That Have Changed Their Meaning.
- E. Others we don't use, Just a few from the A's.
 - 1. Affinity- marriage alliance. 2. Shew again- Tell. 3. Against he come- wait for him. 4. Amazement- terror.
 - 5. Anon- immediately. 6. Armholes- Armpits. 7. Assay- attempt. 8. Assuage- subside.
 - 9. Away with- endure. 10. At the length- in the end.
- F. A newer translation (version) is necessary for people who are seeking the truth.
- G. I recommend the NKJV but others are good as well. The Simple English Bible is good.

II. BECAUSE THEY DO NOT STUDY.

- A. 1990, 57% of adults did not read the Bible at all during a typical week.
- B. Only 12% said they read the Bible everyday and that for *nine minutes a day*.
- C. Is it any wonder 31% said "The Bible is too difficult to understand."
- D. It is impossible to have a saving and strengthening knowledge of the Bible w/o regularly studying the Book.
 - 1. Acts 17:31 "**These were more noble minded than those...**"
 - 2. 2 Tim. 2:15 "**Study to show thyself approved...**"

- E. Do we expect to learn math, English, science, history or anything w/o "cracking a book?"
- F. Too many religious people do not study. Their practices come from traditions or opinions of the preacher.
- G. Many could not point out why they do what they do to save their lives- Col. 3:17.
- H. Matt. 22:29 **"You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God..."**

III. BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WANT TO UNDERSTAND IT!

- A. The Bible condemns sin and sinners consider themselves better off not knowing it.
- B. Jn. 3:19 **"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**
- C. 2 Pet. 3:5a. **"For this they willfully forget. . ."**
- D. Many fail to realize that ignorance does not excuse.
 1. Rom. 1:20.
 2. 2 Thess. 1:7-9.

IV. BECAUSE THEIR MINDS ARE CLUTTERED WITH OTHER THINGS!

- A. Even those who read the word never meditate upon it- Psa. 1:2 **But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.**
- B. Matt. 13:22
- C. You might not be an immoral sinner, but just get too busy with family, food, finances and fun to study the Bible.
- D. We spend thousands for a secular education, and ignore the free education in the Bible.
- E. Matt. 6:33 **"Seek Ye first the kingdom of God..."**
- F. The average person spends 7.1 hours working, 5.3 in leisure, 1.45 doing housework, 1.15 eating and .3 hours grooming per day. (1985).

V. BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT LEARNED TO RIGHTLY DIVIDE IT.

- A. 2 Tim. 2:15 **"Study to show thyself . . ."**

- B. We live under the New Law- Col. 2:14.
- C. A most important verse to understand.
- D. Must know who is speaking in order to understand
 1. The words of Satan are not to be followed- Gen. 3:1-3.
 2. False teachers- Jn. 9:34.
 3. Must get the context.

VI. BECAUSE THEY ARE PREJUDICED AGAINST IT!

- A. **ROSE COLORED GLASSES.**
- B. When shades are put over our mind's eye, the Gospel light is dimmed.
- C. Many come to the Bible with minds made up as to what it says.
- D. They make it fit their beliefs rather than fitting their lives to it.
- E. This makes proper interpretation impossible.
- F. The Jews did the same thing- Matt. 13:15.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Men CAN understand the Bible!
- B. Let's remove these obstacles from our path and run the race to Heaven.