

CAN WE ALL SEE THE BIBLE ALIKE ?

Int.

1. Aim: To show that all people can and must understand the Bible alike!
2. We have the "words of life" which bring eternal life - Phil. 2:16
 - a. That is The Bible
 - b. This lesson concerns all religious people
3. Jesus said: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Jn. 8:32
 - a. Jesus says that we can see the Bible alike.
 - b. We can understand it, and we can see it alike.
 - c. Jn. 17:17 "Thy word is truth"
4. Can we all see the Bible alike?
 - a. Many say NO !
 - b. This is the excuse for all the different religions
 - c. Most people overlook religious error because they think that we cannot all see the Bible alike.
5. We live in an educated and modern world.
 - a. Gained more knowledge than has ever been attained
 - b. This has helped the position of the Bible today
 - i. More discoveries of the texts
 - ii. Scriptures accurately translated
 - iii. More people have access to the Bible in their own language
 - c. Any person of average ability can know God's will better and more completely than in any previous age.
6. Can we all see the Bible alike? Yes we can. Let me explain how and why we can.

Discussion

I. BIBLE IS GOD'S REVELATION

A. God's Word is the revelation of his will to man

1. II Pet. 1:20-21 "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."
2. I Cor. 14:37 "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord."
3. II Tim. 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

B. God has spoken by men, to men for men!

C. The Bible is God reaching down to man to enable man to reach back to God!

II. BIBLE HAS BEEN ACCURATELY TRANSLATED

A. Only a few people know Greek, Hebrew or Aramaic

B. But the Bible has been accurately translated

1. Most loved translation = KJV
2. Most accurate translation = ASV
3. Most readable is NKJV
4. The TEV or {Good news for Modern Man} is not an accurate translation -
5. The NIV and RSV are not accurate translations in all places.

C. A good translation is essential in understanding the Bible.

III. THE BIBLE IS COMPLETE

- A. II Tim. 3:16-17
 - 1. This is all we need -- nothing needs to be added, or taken away or changed.
 - 2. It is God's will just as He wanted us to have it.
- B. Jude 3 asv "Beloved, while I was giving all diligence to write unto you of our common salvation, I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints."

IV. THE BIBLE IS UNDERSTANDABLE

- A. An intelligent man can understand the Bible
 - 1. Intelligent
 - a. Does not mean we must have a college degree
 - b. Anyone with a sound or stable mind can understand the Bible
 - c. Any mature, sane individual can understand the Bible
 - d. Mk. 12:37b "...And the common people heard him gladly."
 - e. Jn. 7:17 "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."
 - 2. If it is not possible for us to understand the Bible then why was it given?
 - a. There would be no reason for God giving it!
 - b. It would be an insult to his intelligence and wisdom
 - c. But God expects us to learn from what is written
 - d. Rm. 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

e. If the Bible cannot be understood then it is a cruel hoax because it claims that we can understand.

B. An HONEST man can understand the Bible

1. We are made in the image of God - Gen. 1:26
 - a. Man has the ability to think, reason, and reach conclusions - because he is made in the image of God.
 - b. Jesus appeals to us to learn the truth - Jn. 8:32
2. We can know the truth
 - a. Jesus said we could
 - b. The people in the 1st century learned and obeyed the truth
 - c. We are just as smart as they were and we can learn the truth today.
3. The truth of God today is the same as it was then.
 - a. The Bible is the complete final will of God
 - b. The church today must teach and practice religion as the church did in the 1st century.
 - c. It is the same today as it was 1900 years ago. Truth has not changed.

C. God expects us to reason to reach conclusions

1. Rm. 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
2. Eph. 3:4 "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ." Understand = comprehend
 - a. The Bible is the revealing of a mystery
 - b. Understanding what was not known before = mystery
 - c. If we could not understand the Bible why did God give it to us?

3. Eph. 5:17 "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

V. WHY DON'T WE ALL SEE THE BIBLE ALIKE? 3 reasons...

A. Ignorance

1. We do not know what the Bible teaches because we have not studied
2. Some are ignorant and want to remain that way
3. But we are commanded to study - 2 Tim. 2:15

B. Prejudice

1. Prejudice - a preconceived idea, opinion
2. Some have their minds made up before they look at the evidence.
3. There is not way to understand the Bible properly with Prejudice
 - a. That makes us bend the Bible to our beliefs
 - b. Instead of us bowing to what the Bible teaches we are making the Bible to suit us.
4. Ill. of 3 men with glasses
 - a. Man "A" reads with Green glasses and the paper appears green
 - b. Man "b" reads with red glasses and the paper appears red
 - c. Man "c" reads with blue glasses and the paper appears blue.
5. There is no way to convince these three that the color is not as they see it, but it is white! He has a pre-conceived idea of what he is going to see.

6. Application - If a man reads the Bible:
 - a. With John Calvin - then he gets the ideas of Calvin
 - b. With John Wesley - then he gets the teachings of Wesley
 - c. With Joseph Smith - then he something different altogether
 - d. The creeds of men are the pre-conceived teachings of men.
7. I Pet. 4:11

C. **Foolish Reasoning** Disagreement

1. Here is the silly or unreasonable way some people reason
 - (1) If there is disagreement among religious people then no one is right
 - (2) There is disagreement among religious people
 - (3) Therefore they conclude that no one can be right!
2. This is neither reasonable nor correct
 - a. It is not true that just because there is disagreement then no one can be right
 - b. If 10 mathematicians give different answers to a math problem, it does not prove that no one has the correct answer or that no one cannot arrive at the correct answer!
 - c. If 4 witnesses give differing testimony it does not mean that no one has given the correct account.
 - d. If 5 physicians give different diagnoses, it does not mean that one of them is no correct.

- e. Many have concluded, falsely, that since there is difference in religion then no one is right and no one can know the truth.
- f. Some have concluded that it is impossible to find out what is the truth.
- g. The fact that men differ does not alter the fact that the bible is definitely the truth of God and that man can understand it.

3. **Must Know all to know anything.**

- a. Here is the way some people reason;
 - (1) If we don't know everything about the Bible then we don't know anything.
 - (2) We don't know everything about the bible.
 - (3) Therefore we don't know anything.
- b. That is foolish and ridiculous

VI. CAN WE UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE? YES !

A. Timothy understood

1. 2 Tim. 3:15 NKJV "and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."
2. This was from his childhood
3. This was the Old Testament

B. Whole books were to be read to congregations.

1. 1 Th 5:27 NKJV "I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren."

2. Col 4:16 NKJV "Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea."

C. Paul said that when they read, they would understand. Eph 3:4 NKJV "by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),"

D. But, can we understand it alike? YES!!

1. That is the only way we can understand it.

2. It offers truth on every subject.

E. Can We understand the Bible? Yes

1. Not only can we understand it alike, we must understand it alike!!

2. ... or, someone has misunderstood it.

Conclusion

1. Can we all see the Bible alike? Yes!!! If we understand the Bible we will understand it alike.

2. God is not responsible for all the religious errors and confusion but man is responsible.

God is an all powerful loving God and he gave us a Book called the Bible and he expects us to read it and understand it and obey it.

3. Eph. 5:17 "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."
4. If a person really wants to know the truth he will and he can learn it.
5. Jn. 7:17 "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."
6. Jn. 8:32

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