

THE NEXT VERSE

Int.

1. Aim: To show that we must use the Bible carefully to understand the Truth.
2. Matthew 4:1-11.
 - a. Scene after baptism of Christ when he was tempted by the Devil.
 - b. One very important lesson we learn from this text is that every time Jesus was tempted he answered with the statement "**It is Written**"
 - (1) God's answer to religious error is found in the Bible
 - (2) To Answer false teaching, we must be filled with the Word of God.
 - (3) God's answer "It is written" 2 Tim. 4:1-4
3. Some say we can take the Bible and prove anything you want to prove.
 - a. The Bible doesn't prove any and everything. It teaches the truth, the gospel.
 - b. Scriptures often used as false proof of error. Most teachers of error will use a little scripture trying to prop it up.
 - c. Quote from Harris Dart *"If I wanted to do the most harm to my fellow man I would preach. I would preach enough Bible to deceive people into thinking I was a man of God. I would mix just enough error with it to condemn their Soul to an eternal damnation."*
4. Even the Devil used Scriptures. In Matt.14:6 the Devil quoted Psa. 91:11 "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."
 - a. The Devil doesn't come in a red suit waving a flag saying Hey This is false doctrine and will cause you misery, pain and finally eternal damnation.
 - b. Jesus called the Devil a liar and the Father of lies. Jn.8:44

- c. If the devil came in a red suit how could he deceive good hearted people? How could he deceive you?
 - d. One way he could that is to get you with a closed Bible. Let his minister come with a Bible and start quoting little bits of scripture.
 - e. 2 Cor. 11:13-15 "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."
 - f. Our world is filled with men that preach some Bible and mix error with it. This is like deadly poison. It will not save us!
5. 2 Tim. 2:15 - Rightly Dividing the word of truth
- a. The Bible must be handled right!! Can't take a piece of scripture from here and there and make it sound like teaching something it doesn't.
 - b. A lesson to be learned is that the truth when fully examined will not contradict itself. It is consistent and will always agree with truth. $2 + 2 = 4$ not 5 or 3.
 - c. When the devil misused the Bible, how did Jesus answer? "It is written".
6. I Want to make that same application in this lesson entitled "**The Next Verse**" What is written in the next verse?
- a. Some quote scripture. There is Error based on a portion of scripture.
 - b. But many times when we read the next verse or verses we can often find the answer to the False teaching. In doing this we learn the truth!
7. We will look at a few examples of the Next Verse showing the truth!

Discussion**I. JEHOVAH WITNESS TAKES THE VIEW THAT "WHEN WE DIE THAT WILL BE THE END OF YOU EXCEPT IN THE MEMORY OF GOD"**

A. They Say man and animal alike have flesh and breath. Body and spirit. Say the breath is the spirit.

1. Man is a soul doesn't have a soul.
2. Do you hear what that's saying?
 - (1) Man's like the beast.
 - (2) As one dies so dies the other.
 - (3) All turn to dust again.
 - (4) Close your bible
3. Where did the idea like that come from?
4. Eccl. 3:19-20 "For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. 20. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again."
 - a. Close your Bible or that's what they do.
 - b. But is that what the Bible teaches? Is man like the dog Rover? Is that the end.
 - c. If that's the only verses you read and stopped there. You would see their argument.
 - d. Sounds like he's got a point and he read scripture for it.
 - e. Let's make sure the scripture is speaking of man's spirit or soul. Let's make sure he's saying we're no different than the animal.

B. When we read that next verse. We get some idea that even the writer of Ecclesiastes sees there is some difference.

1. Ecl. 3:21. "Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?"
 - a. That's in the form of a question.
 - b. Read context see not speaking of the soul of a man or the soul of an animal or spirit of either one.
 - c. Subject has to do with death. Man will die like the animal will.
2. Animals live and die so do we.
 - a. Verse 21 shows there is a distinction. Speaks of one going upward and one downward.
 - b. Same book in Ecl. 12:7 "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."
 - (1) More than just our breath!
 - (2) Part created in the image of God.
 - c. Matt. 10:28 Recognized something death can't do. God can do. "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."
 - (1) J.W.'s view contradicts Matt. 10:28
 - (2) Mat. 22:32 - Had been dead nearly 2,000 years.
 - (3) Bible teaches we have a consciousness Rev. 6:9
 - d. The very verse used by materialist is misapplied and misused and contradicts context itself if applied the way they do. The next verse shows the error of this doctrine.

II. 2 PETER 1:20 "CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE"

- A. Used by Catholic friends who say common or average man can't understand the Bible.
1. Official Catholic position only church can interpret scripture.
 2. "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." 2 Pet. 1:20
 3. Read, close Bible or at least if want to believe that.
 4. There are 31,102 verses in the Bible. Isn't it interesting that 31,101 verses can't be understood. Read this one can understand it to say can't understand the others. Not reasonable.
 - a. Is this verse speaking of understanding the word of God?
 - b. Is that in the context or thought?
- B. Read the next verse, see Peter is not speaking of understanding the Bible. Context is speaking of revelation of Scripture how it came to man.
1. 2 Pet. 1:21. "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. Thought or idea, how did the word come.
 3. Did they speak their private thought ?
 - a. 1 Thes. 2:13 "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

- b. The revelation of scripture gives us the mind of God. 2 Tim. 3:16 -17 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17. That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."
- c. The idea in 2 Pet.1:20 is not understanding of the scripture in this passage. But a passage that does speak of that is Eph. 3:3-5.
1. Eph. 3:3-5 "How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; as I wrote afore in few words, 4. Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5. Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;"
 2. Says Written - you read it - can understand it.
 3. Bible says you can understand it. - Jn. 8:32
- d. We must always read the next verse !

III. Baptist and Others teach "ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED"

- A. Baptists and others who want to teach once saved always saved.
1. Teach that a man cannot fall from Grace
 2. If he does fall then it proves he was not saved anyway
 3. They will isolate certain passages. Want to teach man can't lose salvation.
 4. Here is a favorite passage of those who teach this false doctrine.

- B. "But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. 22. All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live. 23. Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord God: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?" Ezek. 18:21-23
- C. In a debate Curtis Porter had with a Baptist preacher about once saved always saved. Baptist preacher read Ezekiel 18:21-23.
1. He made emphasis on "shall live and not die."
 - a. How will he answer that ?
 - b. Porter said "surprised you introduced that passage" Read the next verse.
 2. verse 24. "But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die."
- D. The Bible teaches the security of the believer. - 1 John 5:13
1. Passages are usually quoted teaching that point.
 2. A man who is faithful, a believer, faithfully walking by God's will. has some sense of assurance.
 3. Can go through life without feeling like on a tight rope waiting for wind to blow them in the wrong direction. Can walk with confidence - I know whom I believe.

E. But the Bible also says A believer can become an unbeliever. A righteous man can cease from living a righteous life.

1. Point of difference *"Can a man living right turn from it"?*
2. Ezekiel says that he could.

F. Heb. 3:12-14 (read to verse 13) *"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. 13. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."*

1. How can we depart if haven't been there?
2. Can we depart this building if haven't been there?
3. Can we depart from God if we haven't been there?
4. Classic argument of those who admit some once looked on as a *"Christian"* has fallen away is to say they never were really saved?
5. If they were ever with him were in a saved condition. Can't depart from it if haven't been with him.
6. How can we be certain of Salvation? Read verse 14. HEB 3:14. *"For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;"*

G. We can depart. Must read the next verse, context and all that is said on the subject. If we take a position that contradicts another scripture on the subject then have misapplied the passage.

H. James 5:19-20

IV. ACTS 16:30-31 - BAPTISM IS UNNECESSARY [according to some]

- A. Most teach that Baptism is not necessary. But that salvation is really by faith only?
1. Say Baptism only a sign been saved. Do after been saved.
 2. Scriptures used to prove that Acts 16:30,31 "And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house"
 - a. Setting - In inner prison, Earthquake, Jailer about to take his life. verses 26-29
 - b. Then read 30-31 close Bible or at least some would have you do that.
 3. Doesn't say anything about baptism.
 4. Should we close our Bible right there?
 5. When we look at the passage does he say believe only?
 6. Only one passage links Faith and Only James 2:24 "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."
 7. In order to call on the Name of the Lord he had to believe. How does he believe on the Lord? By having word taught him (Rom. 10: showed us that.)
- B. Look at next verses 32-34. ACTS 16:32-34 "And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. 33. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. 34. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house."
1. Rejoicing. At What point does he rejoice? It is after he has heard the word of God and called on him by obedience.

2. Said he believed when heard it and responded to it.
 - a. Saved believer is an obedient believer.
 - b. Verse 31 doesn't say anything about Repentance, confession. Must we assume that they are unnecessary?
3. What's involved in believing is doing all God says. Whatever he says Repent, confessing, and it also involves Baptism.
 - a. That act puts us into contact with the death of Christ where we are saved by his blood
 - b. Rom. 6:3-4. "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."
 - c. At this point, Put in death of Christ where his blood washes away our sin and we are calling on the Name of the Lord.
- C. Acts 16:31 Rather than being a proof Baptism isn't necessary is one of the strongest proofs that it is.
 1. What time of the night was it? Midnight.
 2. Bible says the same Hour of the night. Wee hours of the night or morning.
 3. Shows that they recognized the urgency and importance of Baptism.
 4. Folks that teach saved by Faith only do it later. Maybe a week or month later.
 5. If they thought it was urgent or necessary they would be baptized immediately.
- D. To become a Christian involves baptism - Mk 16:16 harmonizes with Acts 16:31-34.

CONCLUSION

1. 2 Tim 2:15 - Rightly Dividing = Handling aright - ASV
2. Have you obeyed these scriptures? - Called on the Name of the Lord
3. Hope you understand the importance of taking all the Bible says about a subject not just a verse from here or there. If we do that, that's how error is taught.
4. Want you receive the Lord more than just a mental agreement or verbal appeal to him, but in the fullest sense. Let it be by full obedience to him.
5. Won't you do so by repenting of your sins, confessing your faith in Him, and being baptized this very day.
6. We appeal for you to obey him right now.
7. John 8:32

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