

# A Search For Truth

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD

Study can be shortened by using only scriptures with \*.

### **2 Pet. 1:20-21 \***

The written Word of God is not from man. God is the author.

### **Jn. 12:48**

We cannot change God's plan or Word to our beliefs, theories or traditions. The Word is what will judge us in the last days.

### **Rev. 22:18-19 \***

We can't add to or take away from God's Word or our names will be removed from the book of life.

### **Lk. 9:23**

Those coming to Christ must deny self, or say NO to such things that are sinful and harm your spirit or body.) Lk 14:33

### **Jn. 14:23**

If we love God we will want to become obedient to His word.

### **Rev. 22:14**

*"Blessed are they who do His commandments...."*

## THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTEXT

### **2 Tim. 2:15 \***

*". . . rightly dividing the word of truth".*

It is vital to know the context of the book of the Bible in order to fully understand it and properly interpret it. In other words, we need to know who wrote the book, to whom the book was written to and why the book was written.

### **There are 4 divisions in the New Testament:**

#### **Gospels:** (Matthew-John)

Each starts around the birth of Jesus and ends around his death, burial and resurrection. Each tells about the one that saved us and the price Jesus paid. Vital teachings are found here, but are many times in parable form.

#### **Acts:**

The ONLY book in the Bible where we have a word for word account of what the Apostles preached to the lost in the grace dispensation. Here the apostles tell non-Christian people how to receive salvation.

#### **Epistles:** (Romans-Jude)

Letters written to saints and churches that have already been spiritually born again according to the scriptures.

**Revelation:**

The book of prophecy written in symbolic language telling us how little time we have left to get right with God.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF OBEDIENCE

**2 Th. 1:7-10**

*"...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:"*

**James 1:21-22 \***

*"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."*

**Mat. 7:13-14 \***

*"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."*

**Mat. 7:21-27 \***

*"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven . . .*

## THE IMPORTANCE OF DOCTRINE

1. Is Doctrine important according to the Word?
2. Can a man believe and still be sincerely wrong?

**2 Tim. 3:16 \***

*<sup>16</sup>All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

**2 Tim. 4:3 \***

*<sup>3</sup>For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; <sup>4</sup>And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

**John 17:20**

Jesus prayed for those that would believe on him by the words or doctrine of the apostles.

*"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;"*

**Rom. 10:14-16 \***

*"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?"*

**1 Th. 2:9-16**

The bible says the apostles had to preach the gospel so they wouldn't be chargeable unto men.

**2 Cor. 4:3-4**

*"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost..."*

**Mat. 16:18-19 \***

The "keys to the kingdom" or the New Testament gospel message are given to Peter.

*"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."*

**Rom. 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."*

Believe what? THE GOSPEL!

**Mark 1:15 \***

*"...repent ye, and believe the gospel."*

Not just believe that Jesus Christ existed.

**Rom. 16:17**

*"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."*

**Gal. 1:6-9 \***

*"...though we,... preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed..."*

**Acts 10<sup>th</sup> chapter**

Cornelius was a good man, prayed a lot and gave to the poor. Yet he was unsaved. An angel appeared to Cornelius and told him where he could find a preacher who would tell him how to be saved (preach the gospel).

**What is the gospel?**

The gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and how to apply that redemptive work to our lives.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEW BIRTH  
(How To Apply The Gospel)**

**Jn. 3:1-8,16-18 \***

*"...born of water and of the spirit he can not enter into the kingdom of God."*

Verse 16 must include the concept of Spirit and water birth or else Jesus is contradicting Himself here.

**1. Birth of Spirit-Spirit baptism**

**Rom. 8:9,14 \***

*"... if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his...as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."*

We don't belong to God unless we have His Spirit. (Rom. 8:13,26; Acts. 1:8;8:11; 1 Cor. 2:12)

### **John 7:37-39 \***

*"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)"*

If you believe, as the scriptures say, you should receive the Holy Ghost.

## **2. Birth of water-Water baptism**

### **Mark 16:16-17 \***

*"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;"*

Believing is linked to baptism. The scripture does not say, "Those who believe and are saved, go get baptized." It emphatically declares that we believe and be baptized.

**Important!** One of the signs that the true believers would receive is the ability to speak in an unknown tongue as the Spirit gives the utterance.

### **Lk. 24:44-53 \***

God opened the apostles understanding that they could understand the scriptures.

Note Jesus' instructions to his Apostles as to what they were to preach when the Holy Ghost baptism arrived in Jerusalem.

1. Repentance
2. Remission of sins in or through his name
3. Promise of the Father-endowment of power from on high.

## **The Promise of the Father is the Holy Ghost baptism.**

### **Acts 1:4-5, 8 \***

*"... but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me..." <sup>5</sup>For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*

The disciples were commanded to act upon what they believed. They were to go to Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father.

### **Acts 1:13-15**

God is no respecter of persons. Mary, along with other disciples and apostles were in the upper room.

### **Acts 2:1-4 \***

*"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

This is the first general outpouring of the Holy Ghost. This day noted the beginning of the church age or dispensation of grace.

### **Acts 2:37 \***

People who were not right with God, but whose hearts had been touched by Peter's preaching asked the apostles what they should do to get right with God. Their salvation could no longer be dependent upon their obedience to Sabbaths, food laws, ceremonies and sacrifices.

### **Acts 2:38-39 (The plan of Salvation) \***

*"Then Peter said unto them, 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. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."*

The man with the keys to the kingdom said:

1. Repent (Lk. 13:3-5, Acts 26:20, Rev 2:21)
2. Be baptized in water in the name of Jesus
3. Receive the Holy Ghost

(Here Jn. 3:5-the water and the Spirit are preached with their intended meaning)

Compare Peter's plan of salvation with Jesus' instructions in Luke 24:45-50. Did Peter, who was given the keys to the kingdom, repeat Jesus' plan for the church age plan of salvation here in Acts 2:38? Yes!

### **Acts 10:1-6, 44-45 \***

*"Cornelius... a centurion... a devout man... He saw in a vision... send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter... he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do... 44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision 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."*

How did the Jewish Christians from Jerusalem know that these Gentiles had indeed received the Holy Ghost?

### **Acts 10:46-48 \***

*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? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."*

### **Acts 19:1-6 \***

*"...Paul... he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."*

Here, disciples of John, who were faithful to God according to John's preaching, were re-baptized in Jesus' name and received the Holy Ghost.

### **Summary of the Gospel (What the Apostles preached)**

1. Faith in Christ's commandments, teachings, death, burial and resurrection
2. Repentance (Turning away from sin)
3. Water baptism by immersion invoking the

- name of Jesus Christ by the baptizer
4. Holy Ghost baptism accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking in tongues

**Question:**

Have you received the New Birth experience? If not, why not?

1. Because you didn't know until now what the Apostles taught as the gospel?
2. Because you have been believing some "other" gospel or merely a part of it?
3. Because you have heard it before and just never acted upon it?

**The Answer!** **2 Cor. 6:2** *"Now is the accepted time. . .now is the day of salvation."*