

Tips for Understanding the Bible (Part 2)

Neh 8:8; Acts 8:30

Introduction:

- A. In part 1, we stressed the importance and means of Bible knowledge.
- B. In part 1, we gave four tips:
 1. Read Intelligently,
 2. Consider Historical and Geographical background.
 3. Pay attention to spelling.
 4. Pay attention to “not..but” expressions.

Discussion:

I. Accept at Face Value Extra Biblical Ideas.

- A. “Chimney corner scriptures”
 1. Every tub shall sit on its own bottom”
 2. “Time will come when can’t tell summer from winter except for budding of the leaves.”
 3. “Eve ate an apple.”
 4. “Three wise men”
- B. Painting of Jesus, Satan, hell, heaven, angels, etc.
 1. Ill. Woman about be immersed saw a films of Jesus “baptizing” John and backed out.
 2. Ill. Teacher with slides of apostles: “No, that is not Peter, it is John.”
 3. Jesus with long hair in spite of 1 Cor. 11 (cf. Boy with long hair asks grandmother for money)

II. Always Consider the Context.

- A. “Context” from Latin “con” (with) and “textus” (text) – with the text.
- B. Actions and words must be taken in context.
 1. Ill. Elder did not speak to member.
 2. Ill. “Paul said he finished his course” – was it in context of golf?
- C. Is Nahum 2:4 prophesying of automobiles?
- D. Must one enter a closet before he can pray? (Matt. 6:6).
- E. Can a woman teach over a man in school? Or have authority over a man anytime or anyplace? (1 Tim.2:12)

III. Do Not Force a Passage to Harmonize with Preconceptions.

- A. Isa. 52:15 to prove sprinkling.
- B. Luke 15:25 to prove instrumental music in worship.
- C. Rev. 1:5 or John 15:1-6 to prove many different churches.
- D. Psa. 51:5 to prove inborn sin.
- E. Eph. 2:8-9 to prove faith only or grace only.
- F. Heb. 5:4 to prove direct divine call of preachers.

IV. Get All the Evidence on a Subject.

- A. Ill. Fable of four blind men and the elephant.
- B. Ill. Jesus said “It is written again...” (Matt. 4:7).
- C. Eph. 2:8 is not all on the subject of salvation (Mk. 16:16; Heb. 5:8,9)
- D. John 6:47 is not all on the subject of eternal life (Mk. 10:30; Tit. 1:2; 1 John 2:25)
- E. The pattern for the church is not found in one verse.

Conclusion:

- A. Do you understand what you must do to be saved? F, R, C, B.
- B. Do you understand what you need to do to be restored? R, C, P.