

# Understanding the Scriptures

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1. Last week we looked at 7 things which will hinder us from understanding the scriptures... today we look at things which help
2. We are commanded to understand – **Eph. 5:17; Col. 1:9-10**
3. God's word is written so that we can understand – **Eph. 3:3-5**
4. It is vital that we come to the correct understanding of scripture – **Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18-25**
5. What are some things which will help us to understand god's word?

Discussion:

## I. EXPECT TO UNDERSTAND

- A. If we do not have an expectation of understanding, we will prevent ourselves before beginning.
- B. The scriptures claim to be understandable – **Eph. 3:1-9**
- C. Scripture is God's words to man which can be understood – **1 Cor. 2:6-13**. And understood alike by all (**Rom. 15:4-6**)
- D. Scripture is addressed to all (**1 Thess. 5:27; Col. 4:16**), even to the 'common' man – **1 Cor. 1:26-31**

## II. HAVE FAITH IN THE INSPIRATION

- A. Holy Scripture is God-breathed – **2 Tim. 3:15-17**. Being the product of God – it is profitable. If just the words of men, then scripture is of no value.
- B. NO prophecy of scripture originated with man – **2 Pt. 1:19-21**
- C. God spoke first through the prophets, then through His son – **Heb. 1:1-3**
- D. The scriptures are God's commandments – **1 Cor. 14:36-38**

## III. DESIRE TO KNOW AND DO GOD'S WILL

- A. If we don't approach God's word with a desire to obey, it is not likely we will understand, and we will not benefit from study.
- B. We are to understand the will of the Lord – **Eph. 5:17**, this is NOT just an intellectual pursuit
- C. If we hear, but fail to obey God's word, it has no benefit in our life and we will not receive salvation – **Lk. 6:46-49; Mt. 7:21-23; James 1:22-25**
- D. Must have a will to do His will – (some claim to want salvation but fail to come to Christ) **Jn. 5:39-40; 7:14-19** (A willingness to do His will found in scripture is what prepares our mind for the effort required to understand it)

## IV. HAVE SPIRITUAL PURITY

- A. God's word is that which sanctifies, or sets apart, the believer from the world – **Jn. 17:13-19**
- B. Called to lay aside filthiness and lust of this world that we may receive the word – **James 1:21, 26; 1 Pt. 2:1-3**

- C. Love for the world blinds us from the truth – **1 Jn. 2:15; Jn. 5:44, 8:42-44; 2 Thess. 2:8-12; 2 Cor. 4:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:13-14**

#### V. USE MENTAL INDUSTRY

- A. Though God's word is accessible and can be understood – it requires a great deal of mental industry (concerted effort)
- B. Need the mindset of the Bereans – readiness of mind, searched the scriptures daily – **Acts 17:2-3, 11-12**
- C. Continual reading, meditation, and study required – **Ps. 1:1-2; Acts 17:26-27; 1 Tim. 4:13-16; 2 Tim. 2:15;**
- D. Reason of use, have our senses exercised – **Heb. 5:12-14**
- E. when this effort is not employed, we twist the scriptures to our destruction – **2 Pt. 3:14-18**

#### VI. SEEK GOD'S BLESSINGS

- A. The goal of our pursuit of understanding must be to abide in Christ, otherwise not of it will matter – **Jn. 15:1-8**
- B. Once we study to know God's word, we should seek wisdom from God, knowing He will provide – **Js. 1:5; Matt. 7:7-11**
- C. Put the whole armor of God and pray – **Eph. 6:14-15**

#### Conclusion:

1. God has told us that we MUST understand His will.
2. God has shown us that we CAN understand His will.
3. Let us apply ourselves to do so!