



How To
STUDY
The Bible

How To **STUDY** The Bible

Ephesians 3:1–7 (NKJV)

¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—² if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, ³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, ⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), ⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: ⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, ⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

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Mark 12:24–27 (NKJV)

²⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, “**Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?** ²⁵ For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ²⁶ But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the *burning bush passage*, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘*I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob*’? ²⁷ He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. You are therefore greatly mistaken.”

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2 Timothy 2:14–18 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Remind *them* of these things, charging *them* before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. ¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. ¹⁶ But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. ¹⁷ And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, ¹⁸ who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

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THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD

³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, ⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), — Ephesians 3:3–4 (NKJV)

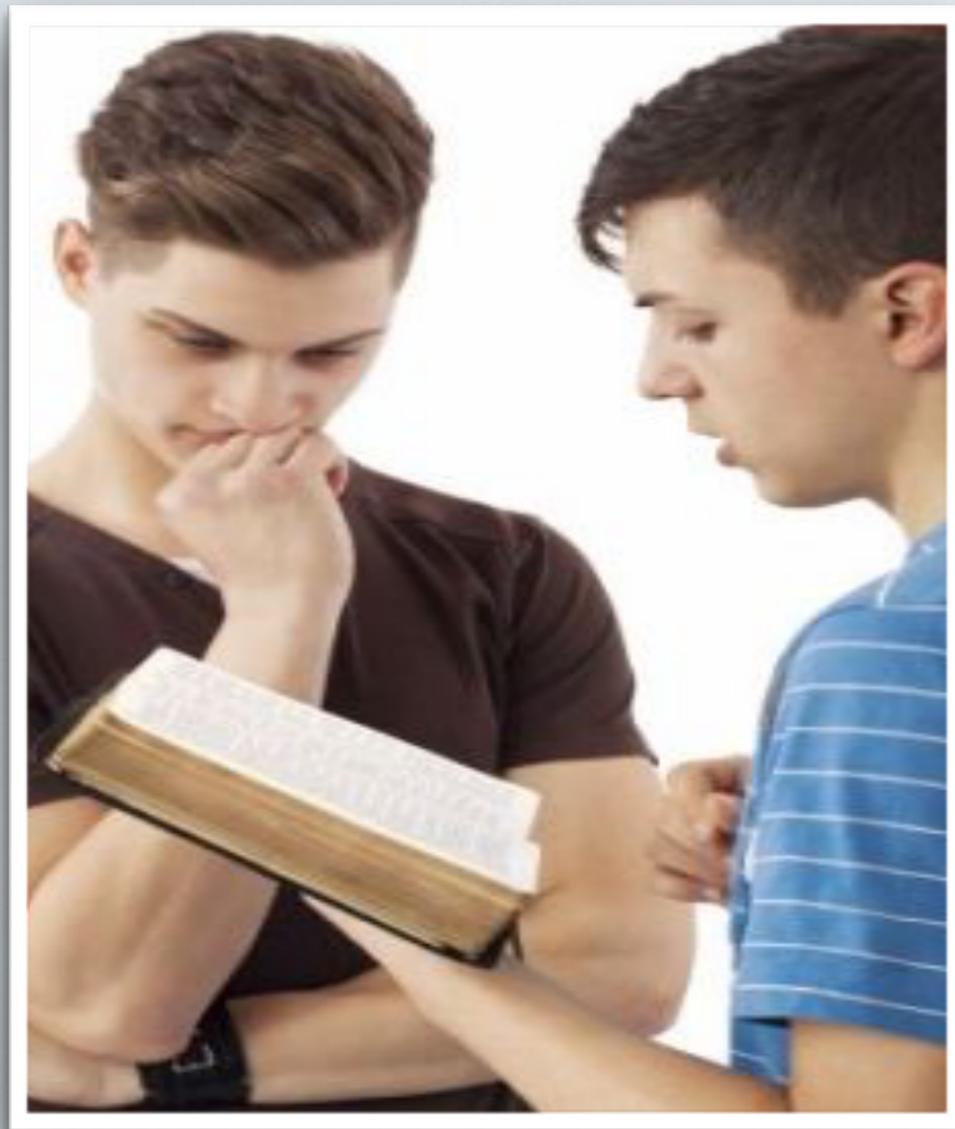


- Error is broad, the ways to be wrong are innumerable, but truth is narrow (Mat 7:13-14).
- Just because someone sincerely believes he is right does not mean he is (Prov. 14:12; Mat 7:22-23; 15:13-14).

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- Truth does not contradict itself - therefore if we understand the truth we will understand it alike (Jn 17:20; 1 Co 1:10-13; Ph 2:2)
- When there are contradicting doctrines - someone is in error. — Both may be wrong, but only one can be right. (Gal. 1:6-9)

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- God wants us to understand His will - (1 Tim 2:3-4).
- God tells us to understand His will - (Eph 3:1-7).
- Average people are capable of understanding it - (Jn 6:44-45; Eph 5:17).

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HOW TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD

¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. — 2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)



- Why the Bible is so often **MISUNDERSTOOD:**
 - ▶ Read it for wrong reasons - 2 Tim 3:7
 - ▶ Make little or no effort - 2 Tim 2:15
 - ▶ Many do NOT have a love for the truth!! - 2 Thes. 2:10-12
 - ▶ Many fail to follow the common laws of human communication! - Eph 3:3-5

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- Why the Bible is so often **MISUNDERSTOOD:**

The problem is not with God's Word; but due to indifference, slothfulness, worldliness, deceit, & the sloppy handling of God's word - cf. 2 Ti 2:15 ; See Luke 8:11-15

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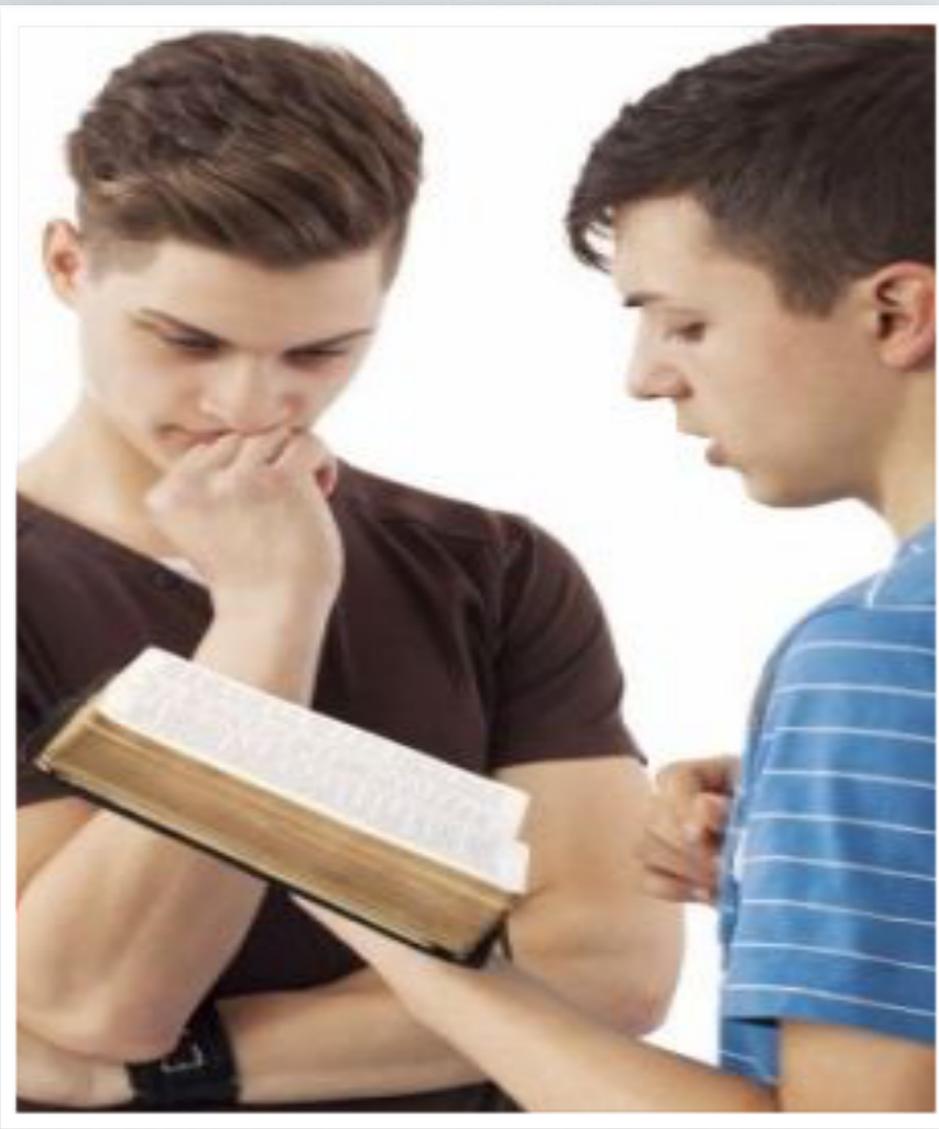


- ▶ APPROACH THE BIBLE WITH
 - HONESTY.
 - FAIRNESS.
 - A DESIRE FOR TRUTH.
 - WILLINGNESS.
 - CAREFULNESS.
 - APPROPRIATE METHOD.
 - PRAYER.

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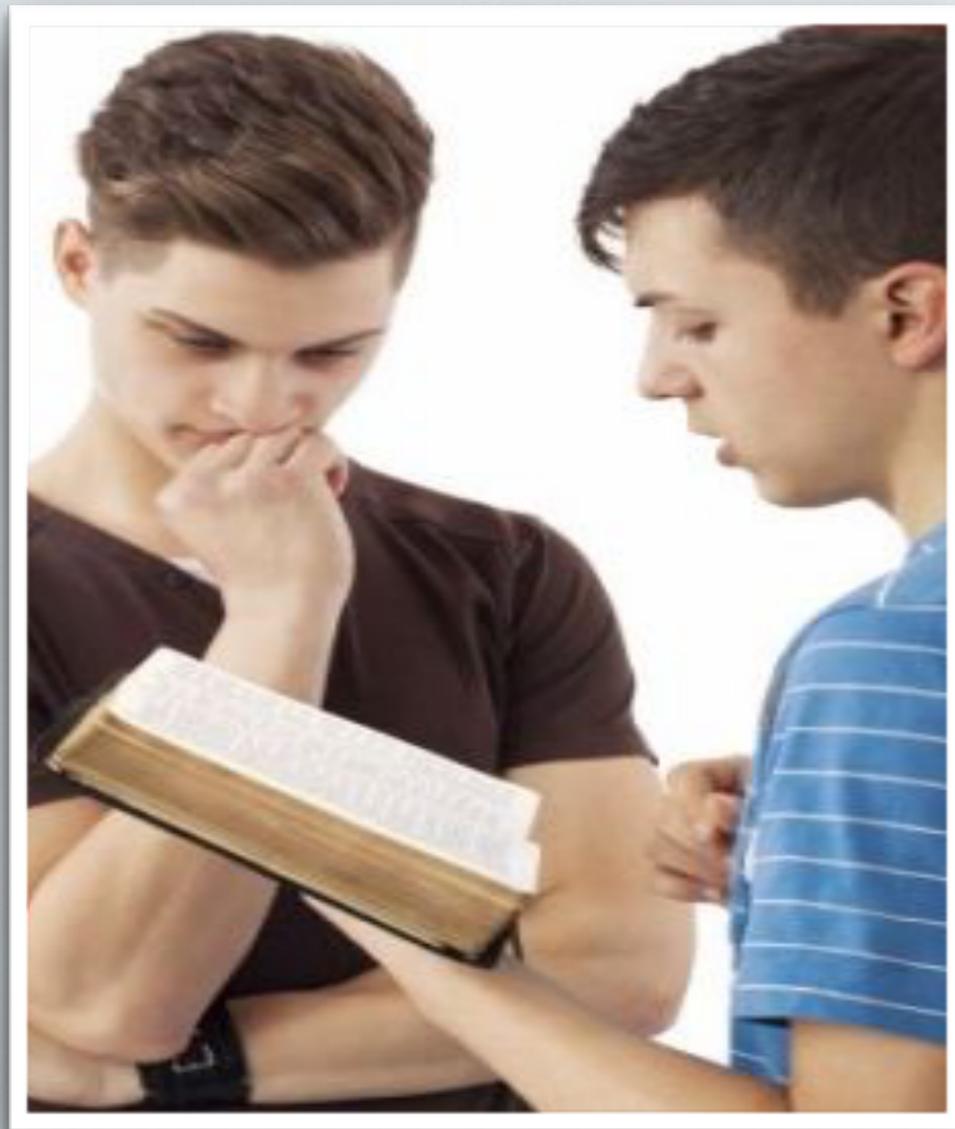


- Honesty & Humility Are MORE important than intelligence! - Luke 8:15; Acts 17:11,12; Isa. 66:2; Prov. 1:7.
- ★ Realize TRUTH matters (John 8:32)
- ★ Humility / meekness (Mt 5:3-5; Ja 1:21)
- ★ Develop a love & hunger for God & His word (Mt 5:6)
- ★ Desire to please Him (Col. 1:10)
- ★ Zeal - Be diligent in your search for truth - being honest w/ the Bible (2 Tim 2:15)

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- God has revealed His will to us through words.
- Words are vehicles of thought and convey concepts.
- We can understand God's will through accepting the words of Scripture.

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The
word of truth **CAN BE**
MISUNDERSTOOD
2 Pet 3:16-18;
2 Thes 2:10-12

The word of truth
CAN BE
Mishandled
Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Pet 3:16

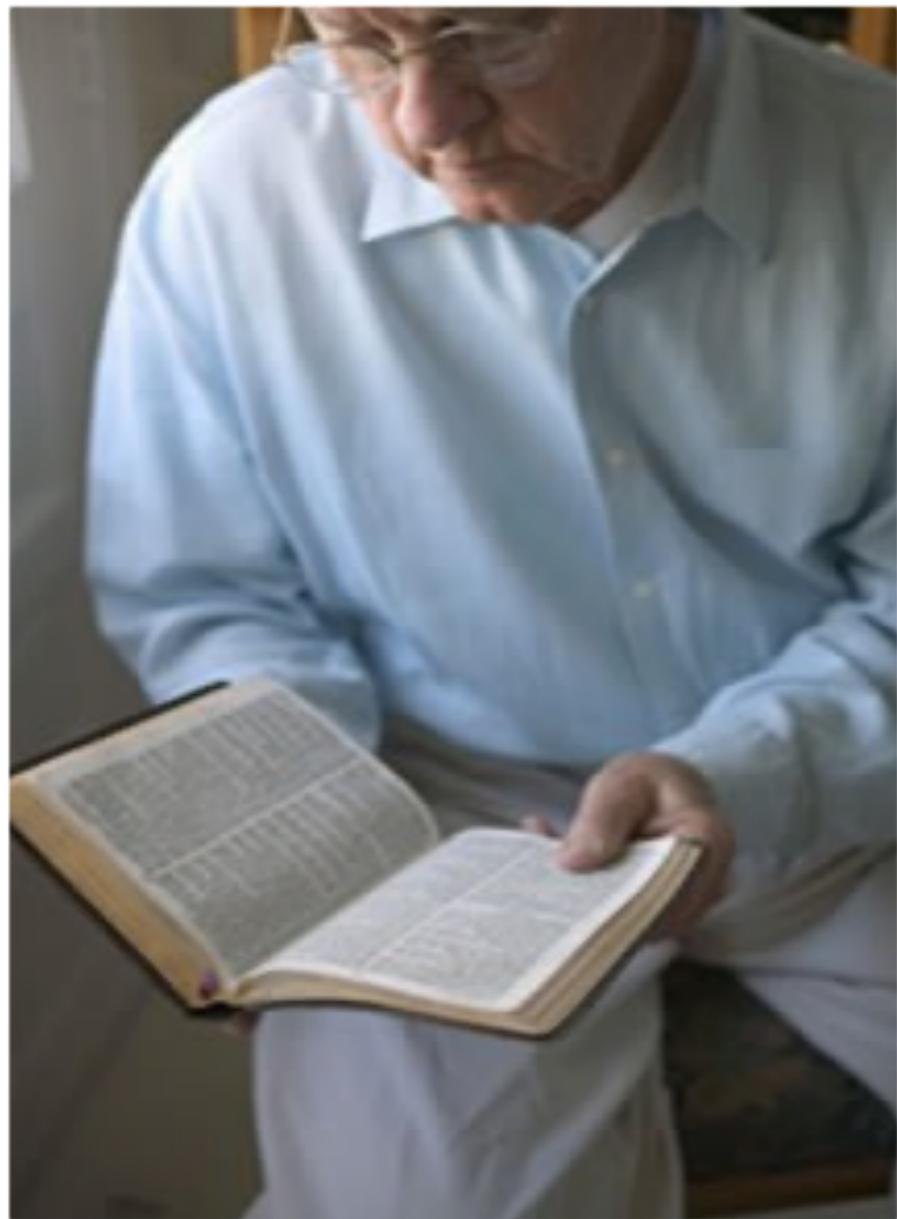
The word of truth
can be
UNDERSTOOD
Eph 3:3-5

The word
of truth must be
“handled correctly”
2 Tim 2:15; Heb
5:12-14

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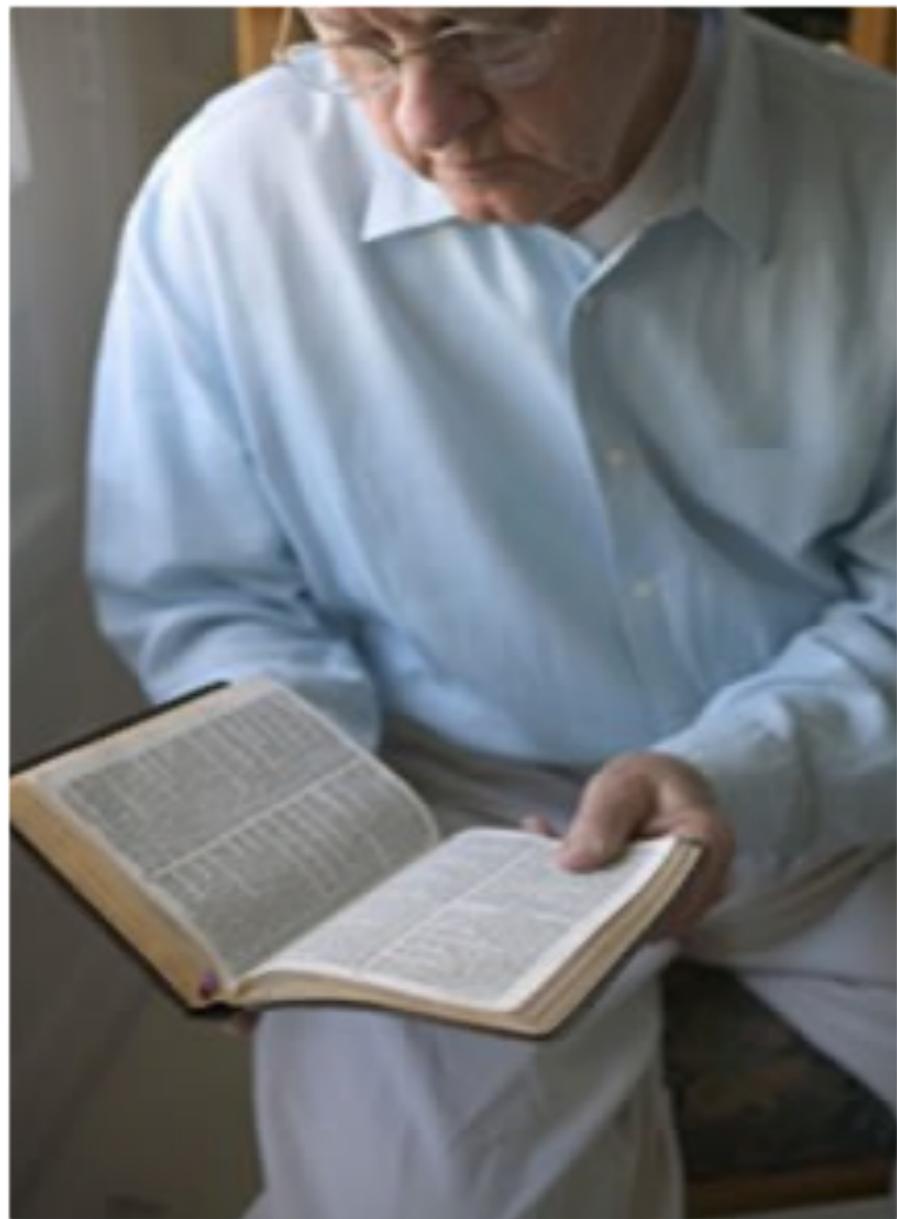


- ▶ **Examine context** – (Psalm 119:160; Prov. 30:5; 2 Tim. 3:16; John 3:16; 6:44,45; 1 Cor. 1:17; Rom. 9)
- Recognizing the type of language used – (Literal / figurative? Apocalyptic?) – Gen. 1,2; Rev 1:1
- Recognizing the different ways terms are used – (spirit; soul; one; baptism) – Gen. 1:20,30; Num. 31:28; 1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 8:16

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- ▶ **Examine context** – (Psalm 119:160; Prov. 30:5; 2 Tim. 3:16; John 3:16; 6:44,45; 1 Cor. 1:17; Rom. 9)
 - Who is speaking? - Gen 3:4,5
 - Who is being spoken to? - Jn 14-16
 - What is the main point? - Rom. 9
 - Understanding terms? - Ep 2:8,9
 - How terms are used in a particular passage? - Rom. 4:2 / James 2:21

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- ▶ Knowledge of historical circumstances and customs – (John 13:14; 1 Thes 5:26)
- ▶ Recognizing that the Bible doesn't deal with everything specifically –
- ▶ However, the scriptures provide the principles where every important question can be answered – (1 Tim. 3:16,17; Heb. 5:12-14; 2 Pet 3:16)

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- ▶ Truth harmonizes with truth.
- ▶ Each & every statement in scripture is true, but is not the whole truth.
- ▶ Must consider everything that the scripture says about a subject .

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▶ HERMENEUTICAL FALLACIES

- ❁ Expect direct divine influence ...
- ❁ Creeds / church / clergy necessary ...
- ❁ Old Testament = New Testament in authority ...
- ❁ Proof texting / ignoring context / disregarding differences in word meaning ...

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- ▶ What must I do to be saved?
- ▶ What things are sinful?
- ▶ How do I worship God?
- ▶ How should the church be organized?
- ▶ Eschatology - (doctrine of the end times)?
- ▶ Ect. ...

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Establishing Our Faith

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**God has used
the basic laws
of
communication
to reveal His
will to us.**

- ▶ The importance of establishing Divine authority for ALL we do.
- ▶ We must use accept everything the Bible teaches as truth and follow the teaching of Jesus accurately.
- ▶ What is your attitude towards the need to study & follow the Bible?
- ▶ Are you studying the Word of God and striving to follow it?

A young woman with long dark hair is shown in profile, looking down at an open Bible she is holding. She has her eyes closed and a serene expression, suggesting she is reading or praying. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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**HEAR / BELIVE / REPENT / CONFESS ?
BE BAPTIZED / LIVE ACCORDING TO
JESUS'S TEACHING ...**

A close-up photograph of a woman with long, dark hair, looking down at an open book she is holding. Her eyes are closed, and she has a serene expression. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

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Charts by Don McClain / Preached July 26, 2020 AM

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2 Peter 3:14–18 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; ¹⁵ and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶ as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures. ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; ¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.