# But, That Is Just YOUR INTERPRETATION

Mark 12:24–27; John 7:16–24; Ephesians 3:3-5; 2 Timothy 2:15

# Mark 12:24–27 (NKJV)

<sup>24</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God? <sup>25</sup> For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. <sup>26</sup> 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'? <sup>27</sup> He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. You are therefore greatly mistaken."

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It is NOT "just your interpretation." When you believe & teach what the Bible teaches — IT IS THE TRUTH! John 17:17; | Peter 4:11; Matthew 22:31,32



#### **PROBLEMS WE FACE**

- Many reject the **authority** of God and His word.
- 2. The **application** of the Bible is viewed as subjective.
- 3. The **relevance** of the Bible is viewed as immaterial.
- 4. The teaching of the Bible is **inconsequential** because of God's love, mercy & grace.
- 5. The **true meaning** of the Bible is viewed as hopelessly unattainable.



#### **PROBLEMS WE FACE**

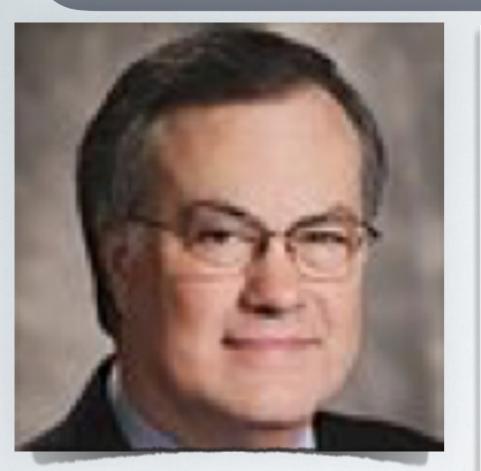
- 6. Over a thousand years of "man authored traditions" are deeply rooted in main stream theology. (Mat 15:7-9)
- Many are unwilling to change from their "preconceived views." (Acts 17:11,12)

8. Many have rejected the truth because they assert the "Holy Spirit" has led them to believe something different. (Jn 16:13)

#### 5 Ways the Holy Spirit Tries to Get Your Attention By Stephanie Hertzenberg

"... That little voice, however, may well have been the Holy Spirit trying to get your attention. You, however, ignored it. You expected the Holy Spirit to come to you in a blaze of fire, but sometimes the Holy Spirit uses subtler ways to try and reach you. Here are five ways the Holy Spirit tries to get your attention." 1. DREAMS / 2. REPEATED SYMBOLS / 3. MESSAGES FROM OTHERS / 4. GUT FEELINGS / 5. CLOSED DOORS

<sup>©</sup> https://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/christianity/5-ways-holy-spirit-tries-get-your-attention.aspx? utm\_medium=social&utm\_source=twitter&utm\_campaign=CSLewis



R. Fowler While (B.A., M.A., Vanderbilt Univ.; Th.M., Dallas Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Westminster Theological Seminary) is associate professor of New Testament and Biblical Languages at Knox Theological Seminary in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

"The Bible gives us no reason to expect that God will speak to His children today apart from the Scriptures ... Moreover, the promise of such guidance inevitably diverts attention from the Scriptures, particularly in the practical and pressing concerns of life. Let us never underestimate just how serious this diversion really is. In the Bible the church hears God's true voice; in the Scriptures, we know that He is speaking His very words to us." -DOES GOD SPEAK TODAY APART FROM THE BIBLE?<sup>©</sup> R. Fowler White <a href="http://www.the-highway.com/God\_Speak.html">http://www.the-highway.com/God\_Speak.html</a>



The Holy Spirit REVEALED ALL TRUTH to the apostles & prophets in the first century! — (John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:1-14; Eph. 3:3-5; Jude 3)

To know the truth, we MUST accept the inspired words of scripture! (2 Tim. 3:16,17; Eph. 3:3-5;

#### **PROBLEMS WE FACE**

9. There are **difficult passages** which require an honest, humble, and diligent approach. (2 Peter 3:15-18)

#### 2 Peter 3:15–16 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> ... as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, <sup>16</sup> 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.

#### **PROBLEMS WE FACE**

9. There are **difficult passages** which require an honest, humble, and diligent approach. (2 Peter 3:15-18)

10. The biggest problem we face is so many people do not believe the clear, easy, understandable statements the Bible makes, due to one or more of the reasons listed above. (i.e., regarding faith and works; baptism; the church; immorality [fornication, adultery, homosexuality, drunkenness, etc]; role of women; etc.) — Therefore, not a matter of interpretation but believing!

# John 7:16–24 (NKJV)

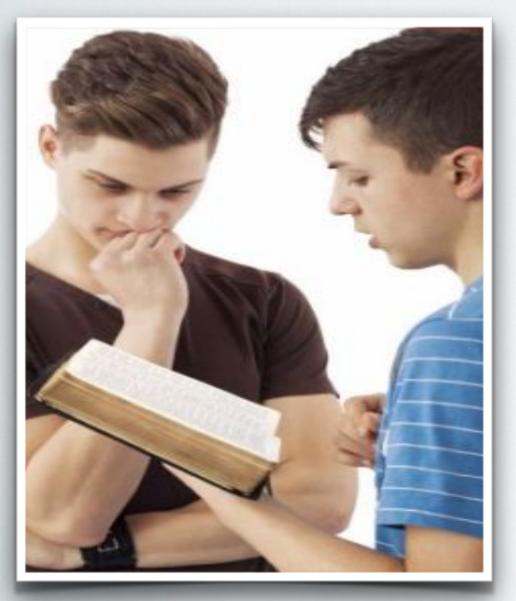
<sup>16</sup> Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. 17 If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. <sup>18</sup> He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. <sup>19</sup> Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?"<sup>20</sup> The people answered and said, "You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?"

# John 7:16–24 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "I did one work, and you all marvel. <sup>22</sup> Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. <sup>23</sup> If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? <sup>24</sup> Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

## NOT IF IT IS WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

<sup>20</sup> knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. — 2 Pt 1:20–21 (NKJV)



- The Scriptures are from GOD not man! — 2 Tim. 3:16,17
- Men do not dictate what the truth is — Men are to discover the truth God has revealed — Deut. 29:29; Acts 17:11,12; Eph. 3:3-5; 2 Tim. 2:15

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God's word is the truth & it means what it means -John 6:63; 16:13; 17:17; Prov 19:7-11; Is 55:8,9;

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If I believe and teach what God's word teaches - IT IS NOT JUST MY INTERPRETATION!

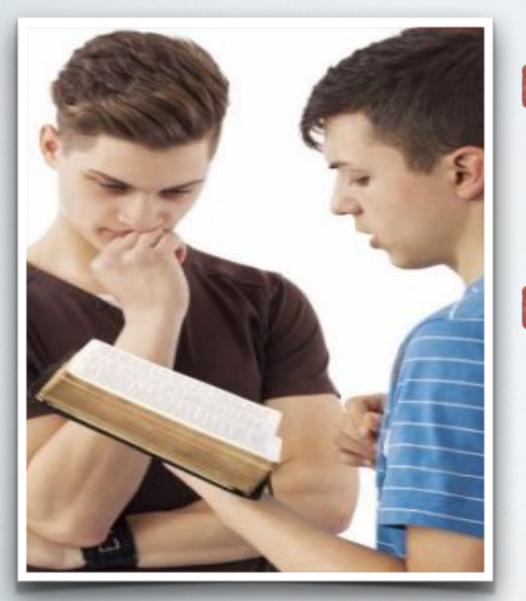
I Peter 4:II; I Timothy 4:I6; 2 Timothy 4:2

#### NOT IF IT IS WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

If I believe something **DIFFERENT from what God's** word teaches - I AM WRONG? Isa. 8:20; Mark 12:24; Rom 3:4; Heb. 6:18

### THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD

<sup>3</sup> how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, <sup>4</sup> 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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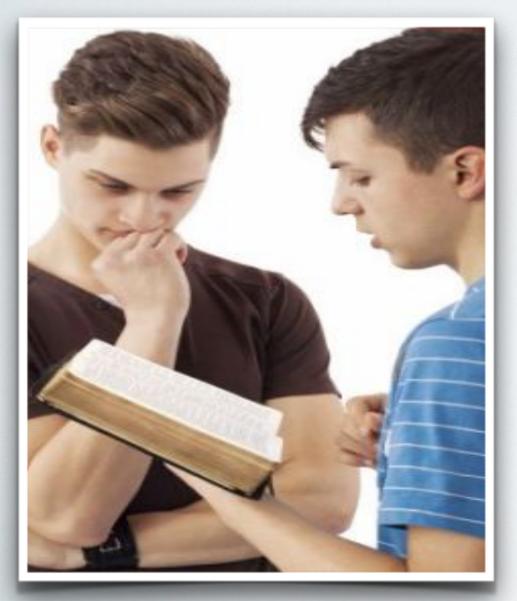


The inspired writers did not hesitate to claim that they taught the truth and that those who disagreed were wrong (e.g., I Timothy 6:3-5; I Peter 2:1-2; I John 4:5-6).

If I can show the scripture where baptism is a condition unto salvation, then it's not my opinion, it's the truth - (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet 3:21).

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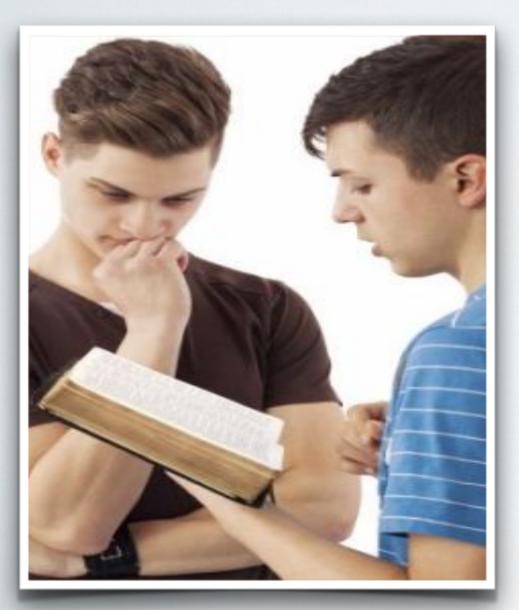
God wants us to understand His will - (I Tim 2:3-4).

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).

## HOW TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD

<sup>15</sup> 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)

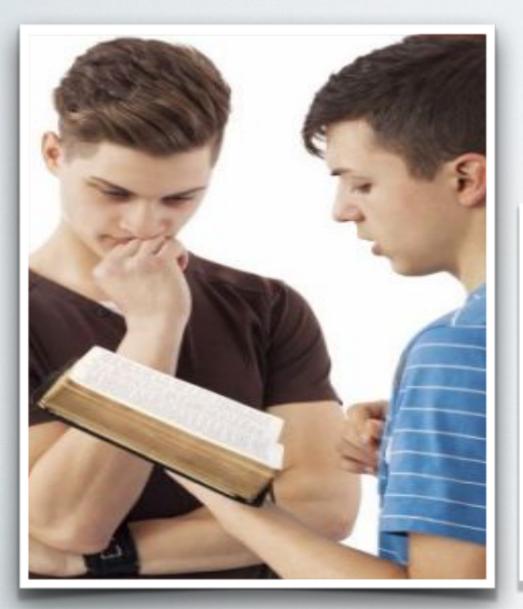


# Why the Bible is so often **MISUNDERSTOOD**:

- 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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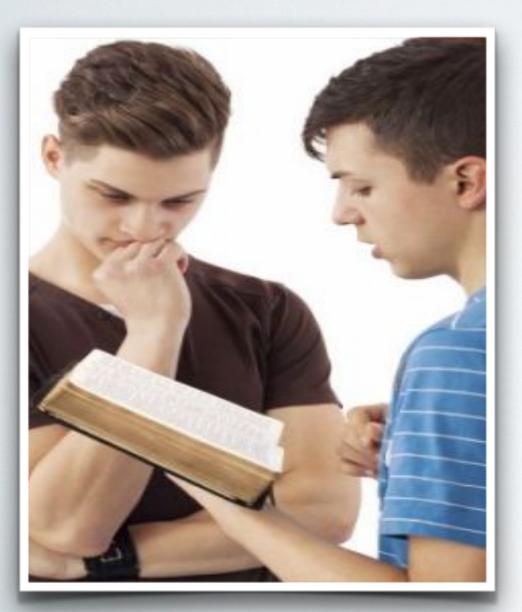


# Why the Bible is so often **MISUNDERSTOOD**:

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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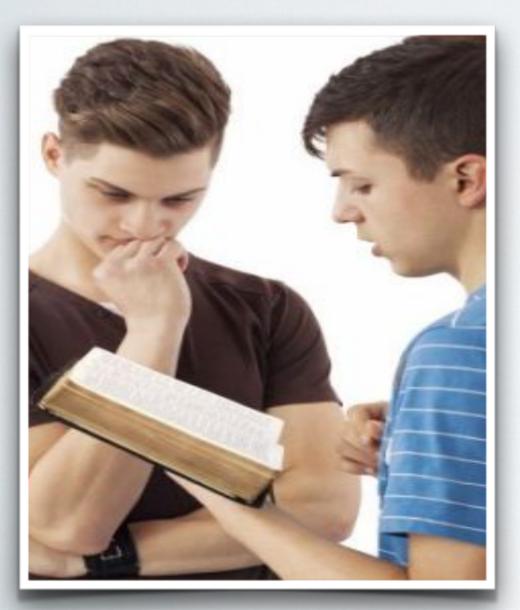
- Honesty & Humility Are MORE important than intelligence! - Luke 8:15; Acts 17:11,12; Isa. 66:2; Prov. 1:7.
- $\therefore$  Realize TRUTH matters (John 8:32)
- $\checkmark$  Humility / meekness (Mt 5:3-5; Ja 1:21)
- 🔆 Hunger Develop a love for God & His word and desire to please Him (Mt 5:6)



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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- 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.

## HOW TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD

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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?

What kind of things should a church be engaged in?

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Mark 16:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

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## Acts 2:38 (NKJV)

<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

#### NOT IF IT IS WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

Romans 6:3-4 (NKJV) <sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Col. 2:12,13; Gal. 3:26,27

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## 1 Peter 3:21 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> There is also an antitype which now saves us baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

#### NOT IF IT IS WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

LET US NEVER BE GUILTY OF DISMISSING THE TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE BY SAYING **"THAT IS JUST YOUR INTERPRETATION"** 

#### Don McClain

Mark 12:24–27; John 7:16–24; Ephesians 3:3-5; 2 Timothy 2:15

# 2 Peter 3:14–18 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; <sup>15</sup> 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, <sup>16</sup> 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.

2 Peter 3:14–18 (NKJV) <sup>17</sup> 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; <sup>18</sup> but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.