#### "Cherry-Picking" The Scriptures

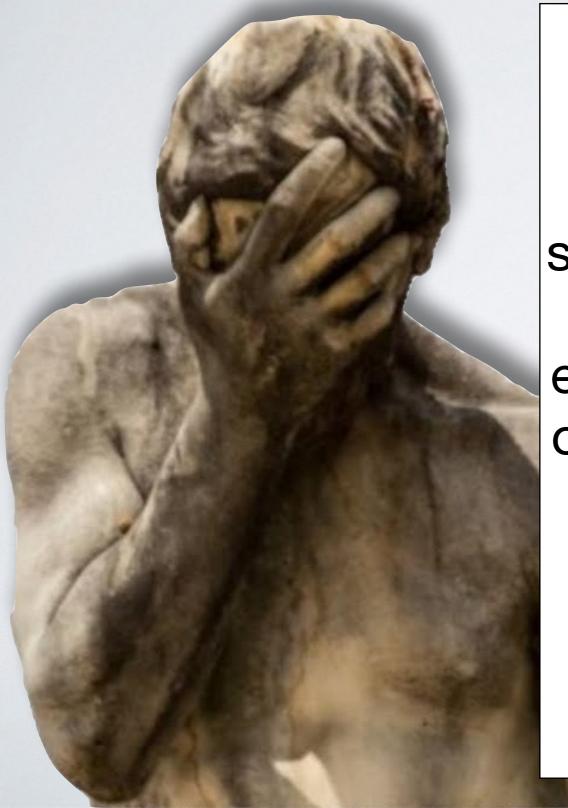


(Genesis 3:4,5; John 5:39-47; Acts 17:10-13; 18:24-19:7)

# Acts 17:10-13 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men. 13 But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds.

#### LOGICAL FALLACIES RESULT IN FALSE CONCLUSIONS



#### **Definition Of A Logical Fallacy**

"A logical fallacy is a mistake in reasoning. It occurs when someone draws a conclusion that does not follow from the evidence or when someone relies on a faulty assumption. There are many different types of logical fallacies, but they all share one common effect: to mislead people into thinking that the conclusion is valid."

#### LOGICAL FALLACIES RESULT IN FALSE CONCLUSIONS



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# Cherry Picking

When only select evidence is presented in order to persuade the audience to accept a position, and evidence that would go against the position is withheld. The stronger the withheld evidence, the more fallacious the argument.



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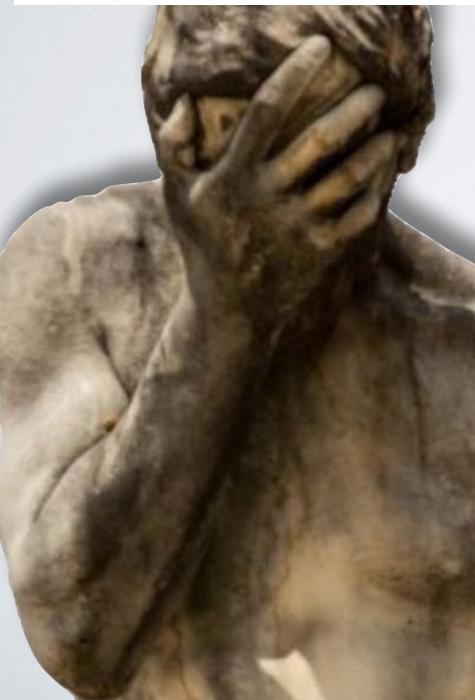
Cherry picking, suppressing evidence, or the fallacy of incomplete evidence is the act of pointing to individual cases or data that seem to confirm a particular position while ignoring a significant portion of related and similar cases or data that may contradict that position.

(fallacy of incomplete evidence / argument by selective observation / argument by half-truth / card stacking)



# "Cherry-Picking" The Scriptures

Synonymous or related logical or cognitive fallacies



**HALF TRUTH**: A statement that omits some of the facts necessary for an accurate description resulting in misunderstanding.

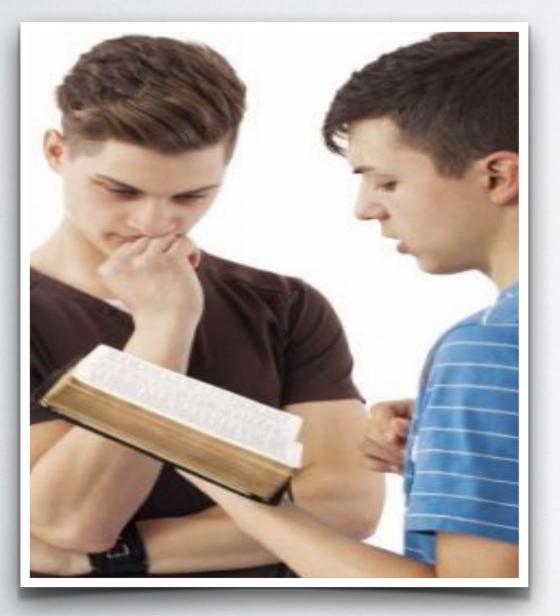
CONFIRMATION BIAS: A form of selective thinking that focuses on evidence that supports what a person already believes while ignoring or manipulating evidences that refutes their views.

HASTY GENERALIZATION: Bases an inference on too small a sample size or on an unrepresentative sample. Often, a single example is used to base broader generalizations.

#### "Cherry-Picking" The Scriptures

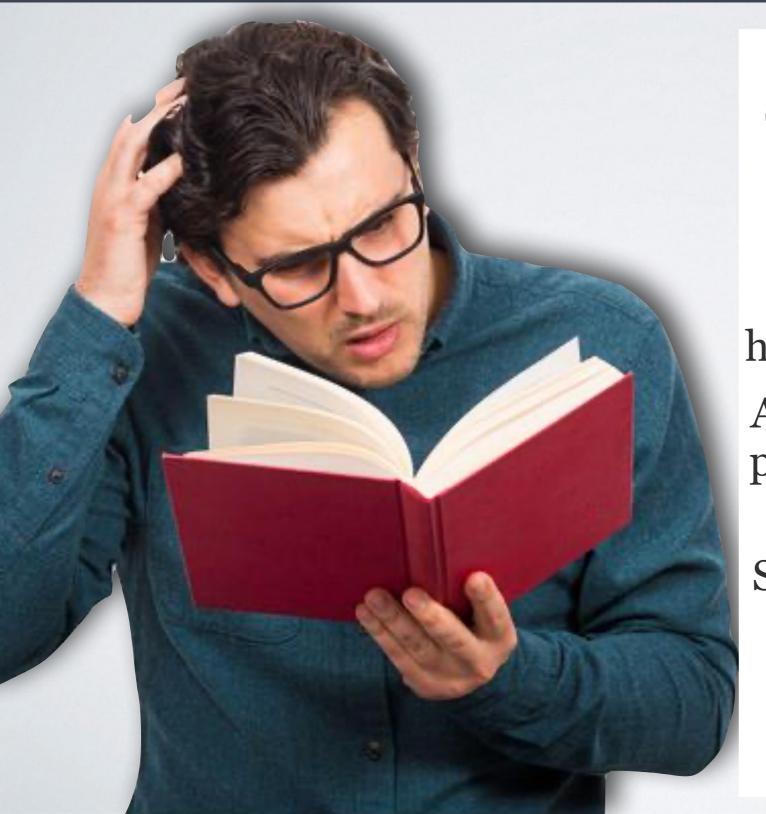
#### Psalm 119:160 (NKJV)

<sup>160</sup> The entirety of Your word *is* truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.



- Satan told a partial truth which caused Eve to doubt and reject God's actual truth (Gen. 3:1-5)
- The Jews rejected Jesus because they believed only part of the O.T. scripture (John 5:39-47)
- 12 men in Ephesus had been taught partial truth, which wasn't enough (Acts 18:24-19:7)

### "Cherry-Picking" The Scriptures



A man decides he wants to start living according to what the Bible says - so he dust off his seldom, (if ever), used Bible and opens it and reads "And he (Judas) ....went and hanged himself." Matthew 27:5

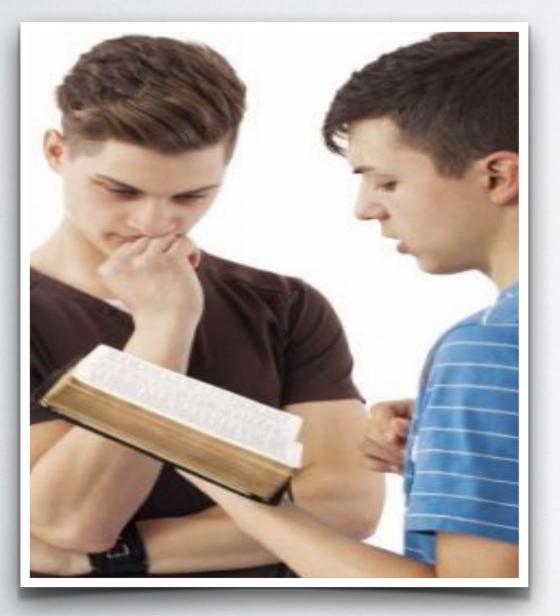
Astonished, he flips to another passage that reads "Go, and do thou likewise." Luke 10:37

Surely, he says to himself, that can't be right, so he flips to another passage that reads "What thou doest, do speedily." John 13:27

#### "Cherry-Picking" The Scriptures

#### Psalm 119:160 (NKJV)

<sup>160</sup> The entirety of Your word *is* truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.



- CHERRY PICKING EXAMPLES:
  - JUDGE NOT (Mt. 7:1; Jn 7:24)
  - LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR (Mat. 22:39; Eph. 4:16)
  - GOD IS LOVE (1 Jn 4:8; Rom. 2:1-11; Jn. 15:10,11)
  - I,000 YEAR REIGN (Rev 20:4)
  - lohn 3:16 BELIEVE

### "Cherry-Picking" The Scriptures



Many preachers today provide "Bite Size" Bible lessons with a heavy dose of entertainment!

The truth is, most people will only tolerate "Sound Bite" Bible Studies / Sermons. They want to get a taste of religion so they can go do what they really want to do (2 Thes. 2:10-12)

Most people want to hear only what they already believe and seek out teachers that tell them what they want (2 Tim. 4:3,4)

# "Cherry-Picking" The Scriptures



"Cherry picking" Scripture occurs when we take a passage out of context, misapply it, or ignore other plain passages that shed light on the subject. (Mat. 4:6,7; 2 Pet. 3:15-17)

Often people "cherry pick" passages from the O.T. Law, commanded of Israel in a different dispensation (Sabbath day keeping / Inst. music / thief on the cross / etc.)

The Bible clearly states we're not under the Mosaical Law today! (Gal. 3:10-29; Col. 2:14-23; Eph. 2:14-18; Heb. 9-10).

## "Cherry-Picking" The Scriptures



Wrong beliefs regarding the role of grace, faith, and works often occur when people "cherry pick" passages to support their particular doctrine (Eph. 2:4-9; John 3:16; Rom. 4:4,5,12; 11:6; 5:1; Titus 3:4,5; James 1:21,22; 2:14-26)

- Are we saved by grace? Yes! (Ti 2:11,12)
- Are we saved by faith? Yes! (Rom. 5:1)
- Are we saved by works? Yes! (Ja 2:14-25).
- A complete examination of these passages, within their contexts, reveals these doctrines are not mutually exclusive in Scripture!

#### "Cherry-Picking" The Scriptures



#### 2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

#### THEOLOGY:

- Modalism
- Unitarians
- Calvinism
- Watchtower

#### SOTERIOLOGY:

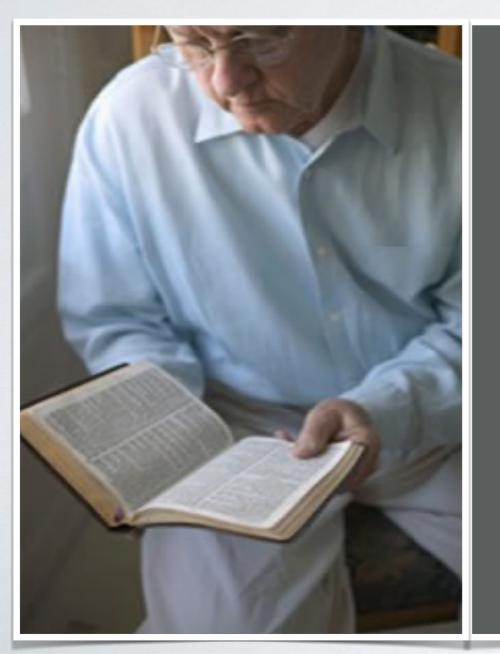
- Universalism
- Judaism
- Faith Only
- Works Only

#### **ESCHATOLOGY:**

- Dispensational
- Premillennial
- Postmillennial
- Realized

#### DON'T "Cherry-Picking" The Scriptures

<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)



- Error is broad, the ways to be wrong are innumerable, but truth is narrow (Mat 7:13-14).
- When there are contradicting doctrines someone is in error. — Both may be wrong, but only one can be right. (Gal. 1:6-9)

#### DON'T "Cherry-Picking" The Scriptures

<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)



- Truth harmonizes with truth.
- Each & every statement in scripture is true, but is not the whole truth. (Ps 119:160)
- Must consider everything that the scripture says about a subject.

### DON'T "Cherry-Picking" The Scriptures

<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)



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

#### DON'T "Cherry-Picking" The Scriptures







2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

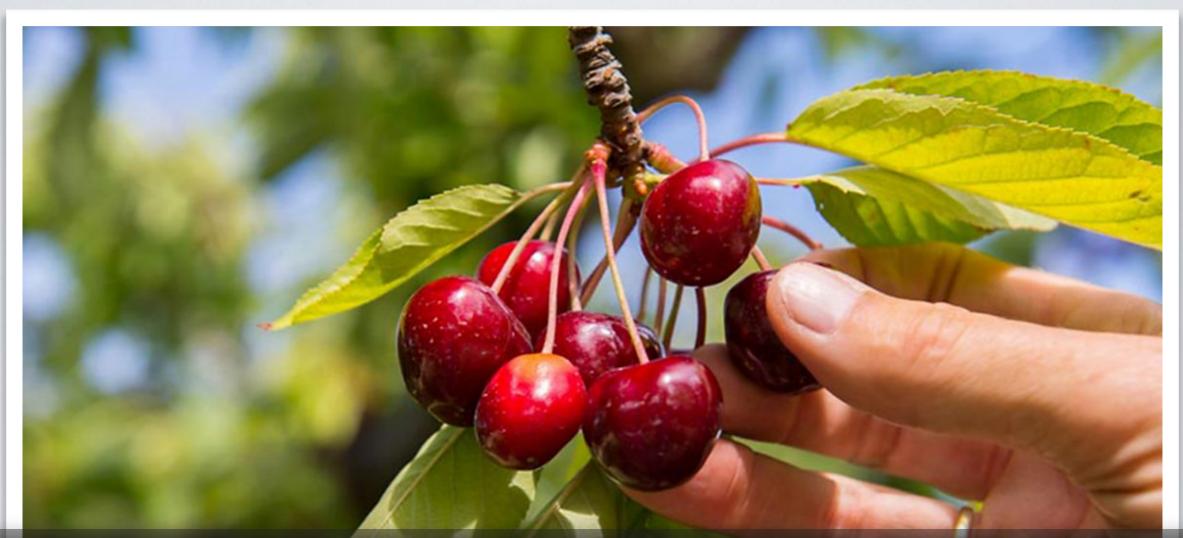


#### Acts 17:11-12 (NKJV)

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed, ...



#### "Cherry-Picking" The Scriptures



#### Charts by Don McClain / Preached July 17, 2020 AM

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# John 5:39-47 (NKJV)

<sup>39</sup> You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. 41 "I do not receive honor from men. 42 But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. 43 I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. 44 How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God? 45 Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. <sup>47</sup> But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"