

## **Can We Understand The Bible Alike?**

### **Introduction**

1. *A Bible Answer* television program begins Sunday, May 30, 2004.
2. It is often alleged that we cannot understand the Bible alike. Is this claim true?

#### **I. What if we cannot understand the Bible alike?**

- A. ...There can be no unity.
  1. John 17:20, 21
  2. 1 Corinthians 1:10
- B. ...God's wisdom is insulted.
  1. 1 Peter 1:20, 21
  2. 1 Corinthians 2:1-4, 13
  3. "You can prove anything by the Bible." How would you feel if that statement were made about you word?
- C. ...The following passages are violated.
  1. John 8:32
  2. Ephesians 5:17
  3. 1 John 5:13
  4. Matthew 22:29
  5. 2 Peter 3:15, 16 (There is an implication that passages can be understood.)

#### **II. The Bible is being understood alike.**

- A. It's odd that people do not talk about understanding other disciplines in the same way they talk about understanding the Bible.
  1. No one talks about understanding math alike.
  2. Have you ever heard one talk about understanding electrical engineering alike?
- B. The unity for which Jesus prayed (John 17:20, 21) is being lived out! There is great unity among the Lord's true people.

**“[W]hen Campbell first spoke these words [speak where the Bible speaks, and be silent where the Bible is silent], and paused, there was a solemn hush that fell across the assembly that showed the intensity of the emotions of the hour. Campbell sat down. A Scottish bookseller, Andrew Munro, a rather sentimental person, was the first to break the silence. ‘Mr. Campbell,’ he said, ‘if we adopt *that* as a basis, then there is an end to infant baptism.’ Campbell replied: ‘Of**

**course, if infant baptism be not found in the scriptures, we can have nothing to do with it.”**

**The Search For The Ancient Order, vol. 1 by Earl West pp. 47, 48**

- C. Consider 2 Timothy 2:23.
  - 1. Why did Nicodemus come by night (John 3:1ff)?
  - 2. What kind of fruit was it (Genesis 3:1-6)?
  - 3. What did Jesus write (John 8:3-9)?

### **III. What can help our understanding of the Bible?**

- A. Consider the context.
  - 1. Who is speaking (Matthew 12:25; Job 2:4; Acts 5:33-39)?
  - 2. Who is being addressed (Exodus 20:8; Genesis 6:14)?
  - 3. Why was it written (1 Corinthians 1:14; Revelation 1:1-3)?
- B. Acknowledge the natural divisions of the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15).
  - 1. Old Testament—Law, History, Poetry, Prophets
  - 2. New Testament—Biography, History, Epistles, Prophecy\*
- C. Notice figurative language.
  - 1. Metaphor—Luke 13:31, 32; John 6:41
  - 2. Synecdoche—putting the part whole the whole—Acts 5:9; Acts 20:7 [Note: this figure of speech occurs a great deal With salvation (Ephesians 2:8; 1 Peter 3:21).]
- D. Are we willingly to really study?
  - 1. 2 Timothy 2:15
  - 2. Acts 17:11, 12

### **IV. What hinders an understanding of the Bible?**

- A. Being closed minded (Matthew 13:15).
- B. Accepting the words of others (Acts 17:11).
- C. Not really loving the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10, 11).
  - 1. How many love their ways more than God's ways?
  - 2. How many love their families more than the truth of God's Word (see Matthew 10:37)?
- D. A desire to find something new (Acts 17:21).
  - 1. New views are often sought regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage or the Holy Spirit.
  - 2. A safe approach to the Bible will not disappoint.

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\* Of things to shortly come to pass