

NOT EVERYBODY UNDERSTANDS THE BIBLE

Hebrews 4:12

Introduction: Without doubt the Bible is not easy to understand and for some people it is just impossible. Even pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc., have gone over passages that were well known and had been read countless times and then suddenly, something new is realized and revealed from those familiar scriptures that they had not recognized before. The Word of God, the Bible seems to be alive at times, but not to just anybody or everybody. The Bible is difficult to understand for most people because they try to read it as they would read any other book and the Bible is just not the same as any other book.

1. The Bible is not only NOT like any other book, but it is NOT addressed to just anybody.

- The message of the Bible is directed to a special people.
- There are some who believe and some do not.
- There are some who are morally receptive and some who are not.
- There are some who have spiritual capacity and there are some who do not.
- The Bible is addressed to those who do have spiritual capacity.
- Those without spiritual capacity will read the Bible in vain.

2. Today's Christianity has become MAN-centered, not GOD centered.

- It appears that God is made to wait respectfully and patiently on the whims of people.
- The image of God is that He is a distant Father, struggling to get people to accept His Son as their Savior whom most people have no interest in.
 - He is trying to persuade self-sufficient people to respond to His generous offers and will do almost anything to get their attention.
- This kind of attitude toward God has certainly caused many to not understand the Word of God.

3. The thought that the Bible is addressed to everybody has brought confusion within the Church.

- The attempt to take some scriptural teachings (Sermon on the Mount) and apply them to an unsaved situation, such as Courts of Law, Civil Ordinances, Military Guidelines, quoting the words of Jesus as guides for policemen, judges and military officers is to totally misunderstand God's Words completely and reveal a total lack of understanding of God's Word.
- The Words of Jesus are for HIS Children, NOT for ungodly people to use as they see fit.

4. God addresses His Words to those who are able to receive them and hides the meaning to those who are not.

- Pastors use stories to try to make clear God's Word but Jesus often used words/stories to obscure the Word.
 - *Matthew 13:10-17*)
- The pillar of fire God used to give light to Israel encamped by the sea was a cloud of darkness to the Egyptian army.
- The Words of Jesus shine in the hearts of those who believe in Him but leave the unbelieving in darkness.

5. The Word of God is reserved for those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- The unbelieving heart will find the Bible nothing but a list of facts without any serious meaning.
- Belief and humility along with faith and obedience are necessary to rightly understand the Scriptures.

6. In natural, worldly matters, faith follows evidence/proof, the foundation of education, but in the spiritual realm, faith must precede understanding, NOT following it.

- The natural person must know in order to believe.
- The spiritual person must believe in order to know.
- The faith that saves is not some conclusion drawn from evidence, but it is a thing of the spirit, it is a spirit given confidence in Jesus Christ.

7. The faith that saves rests in the Person of Jesus Christ.

- Saving faith leads the believer to a committal of his/her total being (existence) to Jesus Christ.
- To believe rightly is as much a miracle as was Lazarus coming back to life at the command of Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

1. Anybody can have a copy of the Bible, God's Holy Word and countless do but not everybody who has a copy of the Bible can understand it.
2. The Bible is a supernatural book and can be understood ONLY by supernatural aid.
3. The Holy Spirit of God enables the believer in Jesus Christ to understand the Word of God.
4. There is NOTHING to be added to the Bible, God's Word.
5. God's Word is for God's People.