

THE RIGHT ATTITUDE TOWARD THE BIBLE

Psalm 19:7-14

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: It is strange that there are many different understandings, different beliefs about the same scriptures. Would the Holy Spirit do such a thing as tell one person that some scriptures mean this and then tell someone else that the very same scriptures mean something entirely different? Of course not, so where do all the different interpretations of the same scriptures come from? Why do so many Christians have so many different approaches and attitudes about Gods' Word? Just what is the correct, the right way to view God's Word?

I. HOW GOD'S WORD SHOULD BE VIEWED

1. It should be viewed as sufficient and authoritative.

- *1 Thessalonians 2:13; James 1:21; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 1:3-4, 19-21*

2. One should reject all other sources of authority.

- Human tradition should be avoided for it is the teachings of men and therefore not authoritative.
 - *2 Thessalonians 3:6; Colossians 2:8*
 - Any disagreements about scripture, the Scripture must be the final authority, not some church or religious tradition.
 - *Matthew 15:1-6*
 - Church councils, the Pope, Creeds, Programs, Scientific theories, Constitutions, Church History, Popularity. *1 Corinthians 1:11-14; 3:1-9*
- Personal opinions should be avoided.
 - One's opinions, reasoning often becomes the authority which governs what one believes or thinks, therefore FAITH is excluded.
 - One's experiences in life are invalid as a source of authority to view God's Word.
 - Scientific and psychological views are nothing more than the results of experimentation among human beings and has nothing to do with spiritual matters.
 - One's religious experiences is based on feelings, emotions and personal beliefs which sometimes has nothing to do with God's Word. *2 Peter 1:16-19*
 - One's personal experience in life often contradicts God's Word as nobody lives his/her life exactly as God wants it to be lived.
- God's Word should be viewed with love, value and respect that leads one to desire to know and apply it to his/her life.
 - *Psalm 119:72, 140; Isaiah 66:2; 2 Timothy 2:15*

II. HOW GOD'S WORD SHOULD BE USED

1. To understand God's Word, one must first of all be saved.

- *1 Corinthians 2:14*
- Understanding God's Word requires the Holy Spirit to illuminate the truth in the Scriptures.
 - *John 16:8-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14*
- The unsaved do indeed use parts of God's Word, like the Ten Commandments or the Sermon on the Mount to establish their own "righteousness" but miss the truth of their real state of depravity before God and their need to be saved.

- *Matthew 15:12-13; Romans 10:1-4; John 16:8-11*

2. To understand God's Word, one needs to be in Fellowship with God.

- One can be saved, indwelt with the Holy Spirit and still not be able to understand God's Word because he/she is out of fellowship, therefore not under the control of the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus' disciples were saved, yet they faced the need of the indwelling and controlling ministry of the Holy Spirit. *John 16:12-13; Ephesians 3:16-19*
- Sin and spiritual apathy grieves the Holy Spirit and therefore quenches His power so therefore a carnal (worldly) Christian will not be able to understand the deeper things of God's Word.
- *1 Corinthians 1:14-3:3; Hebrews 5:11-14*

3. To understand God's Word, one needs to read, study and meditate in the right attitude.

- One needs to be expectant. *Psalms 119:148*
- One needs to be teachable. *Psalms 119:33; Acts 17:11*
- One needs to be prayerful and dependent. *Psalms 119:18*
- One needs to be believing. *Hebrews 11:3*

4. To understand God's Word, one needs to handle God's Word accurately.

- One needs to come away from God's Word with the exact, true meaning of the passage, letting the passage speak for itself. *2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Peter 3:16*
- Often one has the tendency to read into scripture his/her own ideas and prejudices, so care must be taken to let the scripture speak for itself.

5. To understand God's Word, one needs to study with the view of application and memorization.

- When God's Word is revealed to a person, response is then expected and needed.
- *Proverbs 20:27; Psalms 139:23-24; 119:59; James 1:22-27*
- The goal in studying God's Word is applying its truths in obedience to one's life.
 - Many have the problem of either giving too much attention to applying God's Word or not giving enough attention to applying God's Word.
 - The believer is to study God's Word to become a person who is thoroughly equipped for good works of ministry, zealous for good works.

CONCLUSION:

1. God's Word is for every human being, but there are some guidelines necessary to be observed in understanding it as God wants.
2. To properly understand God's Word, one must be saved and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, who then helps the believer understand God's Word.
3. When studying God's Word, one must not bring into the study anything, all outside influences must be shut out so that one "hears" only the Holy Spirit explaining the Word of God.
4. To properly understand God's Word, one must have the right attitude. Do YOU have the right attitude?