# Can we understand the Bible and understand it alike?

*Credits or quick overview…*

1. Three Main Points:
   * + - 1. We can understand the Bible
         2. We can understand the Bible alike
         3. With understanding of the Bible and action we will be saved
2. Introduction
   1. Each of us have different backgrounds related to our faith, for some, faith was birthed from
      * + 1. Teaching from our parents

Certainly a Biblical concept - Deuteronomy 4:9;11:19, Psalm 34:11;78:5, Proverbs 22:6, Proverbs, Ephesians 6:1-4

Eli failure and Samuel success (1 Samuel 1-2)

Success Example: Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5;3:14-15)

* + - * 1. An influential past event/person

Again a Biblical concept

Event: Judges

Person: Ruth and Naomi, Paul instructs this (in the Lord) 1 Corinthians 4:16;11:1

* + - * 1. A realized need or lacking in their life

Again a Biblical concept

Acts 2, Acts 8…

* 1. Each method will have uniqueness within itself and each has positives and negatives
     1. Parent/Child
        + 1. A child of faith can have the benefit of multiple generations of wisdom and learning (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15)
          2. A child of faith can fail to ever ‘own’ their faith (as seen in the Israelites throughout Joshua and Judges)

Simply go through the motions

Rely solely on parents to provide:

Knowledge for their faith

Level of acceptable obedience

* + 1. Event/Person
       - 1. Elijah and Elisha example
         2. A convert due to an event can forget the event once the sting is distant or other factors confuse the memory (the cycle seen in the book of Judges, the citizens of the United States of American after 9/11/2001)
         3. A pupil of a person can base their faith on the role model only, i.e. the role model falls, the pupil falls
    2. A self-studied person can:
       - 1. Offer an unique perspective to others in their study of the Bible
         2. feel inadequate in their Bible knowledge because of the lack of background or
         3. feel superior because of their unbiased background

I am sure there are other backgrounds and other associated positives and negatives that be ascribed to each

Point is we all have different backgrounds and different abilities and obstacles, how could we understand the Bible alike?

First can we understand the Bible

1. Understanding the Bible

Many say the Bible is too hard to understand it isn’t clear

Some say the Holy Spirit must directly give us understanding

* 1. We can understand the Bible
     + - 1. Ephesians 5:15-17

Context is focusing on how we as Christians (those in the light) should act (walk) and how those of the world (night) act (walk)

Ephesians 5:17 (ESV) “…understand what the will of the Lord is.”

Are we commanded to do something not possible for us to do?

Does God only give understanding to a few? – Romans 2:11 no favoritism, John 3:16 everyone, Matthew 11:28-30 all, 1 Timothy 2:3-4 all

* + - * 1. Ephesians 3:1-7, 4 (HCSB): “By reading this you are able to understand my insight about the mystery of the Messiah.”

Truth is known when we read God's word

John 8:31b-32: (HCSB) “If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Romans 10:14-17 – Preachers preach the word which leads to belief/faith

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – Scriptures are inspired of God

* + - * 1. In fact we **can** and **must** understand what the will of the Lord is
        2. To say “the revelation of God is not sufficiently clear is an attack upon God's ability to communicate clearly, adequately, and effectively with man. The implication is that God was either incapable or unwilling to speak in words which men could understand alike.” *Mike Willis, Guardian of Truth XXXIII: 23, pp. 706, 725-727, December 7, 1989*
  1. There are some who do not want to understand the Bible
     + - 1. Not everyone loves the truth, 2 Thessalonians 2:11b-12: (ESV) “…God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

Respecter of Persons?

No! Just and Righteous Judge

* + - * 1. 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, ; 2:6-16, 14 (ESV)

What is the difference in the two groups (spiritual and unbeliever)? Desire!

The Jews wish for a sign (more proof) because they desired physical strength and rule

The Greeks desire was for wisdom that met their mold

1. We can understand the Bible alike

Many point to the plethora of denominations as evidence that the Bible cannot be understood alike

* + - * 1. To say that men can understand the Bible is to affirm that men can understand the Bible alike
        2. The Bible does not teach 100 different things on any given subject

Its revelation is consistent with itself

It does not teach both "Thou shalt not commit murder" and "Thou shalt commit murder."

Hence, if two people understand God's word, they necessarily will understand it alike.

From Mike Willis, Guardian of Truth XXXIII: 23, pp. 706, 725-727, December 7, 1989

* + - * 1. Some will argue that the Bible ‘can’ be understood alike, but it is as likely as throwing a 6 sided die and getting a 6, 1000 times in a row
        2. Matthew 7:13-14 – Broad and Narrow Paths

While I reject it is as hard as rolling a 6, 1000 times in a row, it can be difficult to understand the Bible alike

Presuppositions, background, tinted glasses, etc.

Desire to be right

Fear of change

The devil is very active in the division of those who call themselves Christians

Division isn’t what God wants

John 17:20 – Prays for unity for those who believe accord to the message

Nehemiah 8:1-12 (ESV) – Word read, explained and understood

Joshua 1:7-8 (HCSB) – Recite or meditate on the word day and night

* + - * 1. God is not the God of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33) nor does he desire division (John 17)
        2. To say “the revelation of God is not sufficiently clear is an attack upon God's ability to communicate clearly, adequately, and effectively with man. The implication is that God was either incapable or unwilling to speak in words which men could understand alike.” *Mike Willis, Guardian of Truth XXXIII: 23, pp. 706, 725-727, December 7, 1989*

1. WE UNDERSTAND THE Bible so we can go to heaven
   * + - 1. Back to Romans 2:1-13 - Judged by our actions in the Law
         2. Back to Matthew 7:13-28 – Judged by our actions in the word of Christ
         3. Recall Romans 2:11 no favoritism, John 3:16 everyone, Matthew 11:28-30 all, 1 Timothy 2:3-4 all
         4. When you are baptized you are added to the church, not this local assembly, but the one true church, we don’t do it, God does (Act2)
       1. 2013/01/06 ORCOC w/ PowerPoint