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5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

An Open Letter to a Bible Student

Dear Joseph,

I read your email and I appreciate you sharing honestly with me your thoughts and feelings. I am just going to state a few things. I've often said to God, "I don't know how to follow you other than through the Scriptures." I know that the Scriptures, if revealed to us correctly, will reveal Jesus. Whether that's Old Testament or New Testament, it will reveal Jesus. In Luke 24 the disciples walking with Jesus on the road after his resurrection didn't know who they were talking to and He gave them a Bible study from the Old Testament that revealed Jesus as the Messiah. Later, they said,

"...Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32 NLT)

The Scripture should lead us to the God behind those words in the Bible. It is Jesus that we are seeking after.

Theologians tell us that the original autographs, that is the original letters written in the Bible, were the only things that were infallible and that we have no original autographs. We only have copies of copies. And down through the ages, scribes may have added things or deleted things. Then you have the problem of translations. The Queen of England's speech may have been translated into Russian, Chinese, and Japanese. It's still the Queen's speech, but it would not have the exactness of what the Queen said as she spoke in the English language. But the translations in the other languages would have the Queen's speech. We are reading from the English language in our Bible in which the original letter was not written in that language. So down through the ages that which was perfect has been handled through men. Men are full of imperfection. And sometimes that imperfection comes through the translations. I believe strongly in translations because we are trying to understand the Word of God. There was criteria in the letters that were written, but I'm not going to go into that now.

The problem that I see for today is not so much the things that you brought out to me, that I was aware of, but the major problem I see is that each denomination and each group of believers usually follow a man and then they choose which part of the Bible they want to believe and they ignore many verses and act as if these verses are not equal to their favorite verses they have embraced. If you look up the word "heresy" in Vine's Dictionary, it talks of heresy and error as being a self-willed opinion, a picking or choosing. This is what I see in most groups, a picking and choosing. What verses

they will believe, which verses they won't believe, or what they will ignore. They also set Scriptures against other Scriptures.

So Jesus said man shall not live by bread alone, but by EVERY word that proceeds from God.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts that were troubling you. I appreciate your honesty. May the Lord bless you in your studies and in your walk with Him.

Sincerely,

Don Krow

Questions

1 If the Scriptures are revealed to us correctly, it will reveal the person of Jesus.

True or False

2 The original letters written in the Bible, by their authors were infallible. They are known as the original autographs.

True or False

3 The purpose of translations is:

- A. to confuse you
- B. to get a new copyright on the Bible
- C. to help us understand the Word of God

4 One major problem of today is that people decide which part of the Bible they want to believe and ignore many verses.

True or False

5 According to Vine's Dictionary, heresy is a self-willed opinion, a picking or choosing. When we pick or choose what verses we want to believe and ignore others, we are fulfilling the definition of heresy.

True or False

Answer Key

- 1** If the Scriptures are revealed to us correctly, it will reveal the person of Jesus.

True

“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.” (Luke 24:27)

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.” (John 15:26 NIV)

- 2** The original letters written in the Bible, by their authors were infallible. They are known as the original autographs.

True

“For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:21 NIV)

- 3** The purpose of translations is:

- A. to confuse you
- B. to get a new copyright on the Bible

C. to help us understand the Word of God

“³⁰Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ Philip asked.

³¹‘How can I,’ he said, ‘unless someone explains it to me?’...”

(Acts 8:30-31 NIV)

- 4** One major problem of today is that people decide which part of the Bible they want to believe and ignore many verses.

True

“Jesus answered, ‘It is written: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on EVERY word that comes from the mouth of God.”’” (Matthew 4:4 NIV)

5 According to Vine's Dictionary, heresy is a self-willed opinion, a picking or choosing. When we pick or choose what verses we want to believe and ignore others, we are fulfilling the definition of heresy.

True

“Jesus replied, ‘You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.’” (Matthew 22:29 NIV)

We want to hear from you!

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

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