

BibleTalk Radio



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Christ for the Philippines Mission

How to Understand the Bible

Bible Study by Tony Tirse

Missionary & Pastor

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Tonight's subject is "How to Understand the Bible." It's very important because the Bible is the most important, precious, and powerful book on the face of the Earth. It is not something to be played with. It is not something to be taken lightly. It is something that has been in the past very twisted and very misused for nefarious reasons, selfish reasons, money-making reasons, control reasons. Many false teachings have come over the years, over the centuries, because of people not understanding and not discerning the Bible correctly. As we say so many times here on the BibleTalk Radio Show, the reason there are so many religions is for that very reason, because they twist it and they use it for their own gain.

Let me get to the nitty-gritty of it. Dear listener, please turn with me to the book of John, Chapter 7. Remember, when you listen to the BibleTalk Radio Show, you're going to come to the classroom, and the best way to come to the classroom is prepared with your textbook. And the textbook for the BibleTalk Radio Show is the King James Bible. So, turn, please, to the Gospel of John, Chapter 7.

Jesus Christ here is speaking to some disciples and He is saying something that is very, very important, because, remember, Jesus Christ is God. But when He was on the Earth, He was

also man. He was 100% God and 100% man. What He always claimed was that He came to do the will of His Father. He came to preach the message of His Father. In other parts of the Bible, we see that Jesus Christ is the express image of God the Father. So, in other words, since no man can see God and live, God the Son manifested Himself in the flesh. He came in the flesh as a man, and He was the expression of the entirety of the Godhead bodily.

He often spoke of Himself as being sent by the Father. So here in John 7:17, I'm going to give you the first clue on how to know if the Bible is teaching the truth and what the truth is about the Bible. Jesus Christ said, *If any man will do his will... and of course, He is taking about God's Will, God the Father... he shall know of the doctrine... the teaching, the policies of the Bible... whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*

There were many false teachers in the time of Jesus Christ as there are today, and what they were doing is the same thing that they're doing today. They were teaching doctrines, and they were twisting and sometimes even making up doctrines to empower themselves, to start religions, and to get power over people.



But Jesus said something very interesting. He said, if you do God's will, you will know. That's His promise right here in this verse. You will know if the doctrine is actually true from God or if Jesus is just another man. So there's your first clue. In order to know the Bible, in order to know the doctrine, and to know if it's true, you have to do the will of God. Right? That's the logical conclusion we can reach from this. Is that the plain sense we can reach from the Scripture here?

[Ms. Ypille:] Basically, you will be able to tell easily.

Yes, if you do the will of God. That should logically bring us to another question. What is the will of God? How do I do the will of God? I'm glad you asked. Let me take you to another Scripture further into the New Testament, towards the back of the Bible in the book of II Peter, Chapter 3. Let's find out what the Bible says about the will of God, because it's very important. Jesus is saying you will understand the Bible and you will know that the doctrine is true, but the only way to do that is to do the will of God first. So now we have to find out what the will of God is.

Second Peter 3:9: The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Not willing this, but willing that. God is not willing that anybody should die and go to Hell. Unfortunately, many millions do, but that's not the will of God. The will of God is that all should come to repentance and, of course, what he's talking about is being saved, being born again. That brings me to the question

that I always ask my audience, and that's this: Dear listener, if you were to die today, tonight, are you 100% sure, 100% beyond doubt, that you will go to Heaven? Or are you 50%? 75%? 95%? Because that's a big difference. If you are a saved, born-again child of God, you will know and that goes back to John 7:17. That's how you know.

Not being arrogant or presumptuous, but I know that, if I die today, I will go undoubtedly, 100%, instantly to Heaven. Not because I'm presumptuous or arrogant. I know because I have completed that will of God of being saved and born again. Only a saved, born-again child of God can know 100% beyond a shadow of a doubt that they are saved and going to Heaven.

So, again, doing the will of God is the first one, the first will of God that anybody needs to do, before you try to do something good, before you try to help a poor person, before you try to give money to an orphan, before you try to go to church for ten years straight, before you try to get your life right, before you do any of those things, you must do the will of God for your life, which is not to perish, but to come to repentance. In other words, be saved.

Now, let's not build a doctrine on one verse of Scripture. Let's take a look at another verse of Scripture and find out what God says according to His will, His commandment for us. Many people are ignorant of these things. That's why people turn to religion. They're trying to reach God, but God has already reached down to us through Jesus Christ, but in man's ignorance, they continue to go towards things like religions. Here's what God says about that concerning His will. What does He command about that?



Please turn to the book of Acts, Chapter 17. Let's start in verse 29: *²⁹Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God... We are the creation of God... we ought not to think that the Godhead... the Trinity, God in His fullness... is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.*

The word "device" in the King James refers to man's imagination. In this day you can go many places and you can find statues of Jesus Christ and pictures of Jesus Christ. None of those are Jesus Christ, because nobody knows what He looked like. Michelangelo didn't know what He looked like. Pope Innocent from whatever the year he was or 1100 A.D. didn't know what Jesus looked like. Nobody knows what Jesus looked like except for His disciples who lived and died 2,000 years ago.

[Ms. Ypille:] Who walked with Him.

Yes, and nobody made any kind of pictures or anything of Jesus Christ. In fact, the Bible says that He was plain looking. There was nothing in Him that we should desire by the way that He looked. So it's talking about this: We need not think of God as some kind of statue or some kind of painting or anything that we can imagine. In other words, that's religion.

Now look at verse 30: *And the times of this ignorance... because we had all that kind of ignorance... God winked at...* In other words, the wink doesn't mean that kind of wink like when you're trying to be charming. This is talking about like when something is really ugly and you squeeze your eyes together and you look away because it's so ugly. Or sometimes it's just a very bright light and you kind of squint. So it's more referring to squinting. God winked at it. So for a while,

God was like, "Oh, don't do that." Like when you're teaching a child how to walk and that child is stumbling, stumbling, and you know that child is going to fall and you turn your eyes and go, "Oh, he's going to fall." Boom, he falls. But the parent is patient because the child is learning how to walk, so God says, "For a while, I was patient with you there," but now He commands... How many men, Ms. Ypille?

[Ms. Ypille:] All.

Everywhere. Which places?

[Ms. Ypille:] All places.

To repent, turn from that ignorance, turn from religions, turn from the lost condition, the sin condition, to the saved condition, having trusted on Jesus Christ only for salvation. Nowhere in the Bible are you going to find that you are supposed to be complete with any sacraments, that you're supposed to perform any church services.

[Ms. Ypille:] Or be a member of a church.

Or that you're supposed to be a member of a church. You won't find any religion named in the Bible. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that that's how you reach God or that's how you get saved. Jesus Christ came to save sinners. That's how God has reached us, and He has reached us with open arms and open hands, and the only thing that we are to do is to receive Him, to turn to Him. It's what the Bible is commanding, to repent, to turn from unbelief to belief in Jesus Christ only.



Now, that's a couple of places where we have already seen that the will of God is for a person to be saved. Why is that the will of God for a person to be saved if they want to understand the Bible? Undoubtedly, dear listeners, there are some of you out there that are probably saying, "Pastor, I know some people who are very religious and they're in religion and they're not like you, but I've heard them talk about the Bible, and they know a lot about the Bible."

Well, dear listener, I'll tell you what. They probably have memorized a lot of Scripture verses and they can probably explain quite a few things about the Bible, but I'll tell you what they don't know is they don't know the Bible.

Just like many people know about Jesus Christ, but they don't know Him personally, and the example that I always use is... think about President Duterte. A lot of people know about President Duterte. They know about his life. They know where he was mayor. They know what language he speaks. They know what his career was before he became a mayor, that he was an attorney. They know where he lives. They know how he goes back and forth between Davao City and Manila. A lot of people know his schedule. Most Filipinos, I would say, know a lot about President Duterte, but they don't know Him personally. That's a big difference.

The same thing with Jesus Christ. A lot of people know about Jesus Christ, but they don't know Him personally. It's very important when the Bible says that we need to be saved. That's the first will of God, and here's why. I'm going to prove it from the Bible. Everything that we prove is from the Bible or else I'd have to shut down this show.

Let's go back in the New Testament a little further towards the beginning. The book of I Corinthians, Chapter 1, verse 18. This verse right here describes some people that listen to this show. First Corinthians 1:18: *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness... For the unsaved, all of this preaching and teaching that we do is foolishness because they think they know better and their religion has taught them another way and we're just crazy fanatics here. So it's foolishness to them, that's what the Bible says... but unto us [a special group of Bible] which are saved it is the power of God.* The preaching of the cross in my life is the power of God. There's nothing greater.

[Ms. Ypille:] For those that know what the Bible is, the value of it, and the ones who intimately know it with everyday devotion, truly in their hearts seeking the wisdom of God, to them the words are power.

Amen. And now let me take you to another place. It talks about the same thing. It's in the same book but it's in the next chapter, I Corinthians 2:14. In the Bible, you have a saved man. A saved man is the one that's born again, saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, but then the one who is not saved is called the natural man. Natural, born in sin, the original sin nature. First Corinthians 2:14, *But the natural man... the unsaved man...receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

In John Chapter 3, it talks about being born again, but it also says you must be born of the Spirit. That which is flesh is flesh; that which is Spirit is Spirit. If you want to know the



Bible, if you want to understand the Bible, dear listener, if you want to know how to understand the Bible, the answer is you must be saved. You must be born again, because, until you are, most of the things of the Bible are going to be silly, foolishness, old fairy tale stories. There will be some parts that you'll believe, and there will be some parts that you will not believe because you don't understand them. They'll be foolishness, and you cannot receive them. They're not designed for you. God did not write His Bible for unsaved people. He did not. The Word of God is written for the saved. The only thing that God has written in the Bible for the unsaved people is the plan of salvation.

[Ms. Ypille:] A question, in every book of the Bible and every chapter, is there a lament for unsaved people other than a Gospel message? Like, for example, the book of Ecclesiastes, could that be right?

Some of the things in the Word of God, because it's a universal power, can be applied. But most of the things are not. First of all, the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation is about one person, the Lord Jesus Christ. It's always pointing to Jesus Christ. Most of the things in the Bible are written to believers to reveal Jesus Christ to believers. Both in the New Testament and in the Old Testament. It's amazing. After I got saved and started studying the Bible how much I saw Jesus Christ in the Old Testament but I had no clue He was there before.

And you hear the world make references to the Old Testament and they ridicule it and they say, "Oh, we got rid of the death penalty. We don't believe in that old death penalty like that Bible. The people use the Bible as an eye for an

eye, a tooth for a tooth. It talks about stoning people there. How barbaric. That's a hate speech. We're so proud of ourselves that we got rid of the death penalty."

But it's because they don't understand what all that means. They don't understand that it's talking about not just a natural death; it's talking about the penalty of sin, an eternal damnation, an eternal Hell. And in those very same verses where it talks about stoning people, the mercy of God is revealed. And there are plenty of times where people are pardoned for no other reason than for the mercy of God.

You have a man named David who was a great king who committed adultery and murder while being king, and he lied about it to everyone until God sent a prophet to point right in his face and he repented. You would think that this king deserves to lose his throne; he deserves to be executed for the murder and tried for the crime, but God did not deal with him that way. David repented and God tenderly dealt with him.

But there were consequences. The baby that was the result of that adulterous relationship died. There was trouble in David's kingdom. There were definitely consequences for the sin, but David was under the law. According to the law he should have been stoned for two things. He should have been stoned for committing the adultery because that's in the Old Testament, the Levitical law. He should have been stoned for murdering innocent blood. Uriah, the man he murdered, was innocent blood. He should have been stoned twice, but God forgave him once and that's all he needed. Again, the Old Testament, the New Testament, it has to be spiritually discerned.



Now, this is from the book of II Timothy, Chapter 3. II Timothy 3:16, and the Bible says, *All scripture...* So, how much of the Bible, Ms. Ypille?

[Ms. Ypille:] All.

Every word?

[Ms. Ypille:] All of it.

Every apostrophe, every comma, every period. *All scripture is given by inspiration of God...* So, how many mistakes are in the Bible?

[Ms. Ypille:] None.

Not if it's given by inspiration of God, because some people say that men wrote the Bible.

[Ms. Ypille:] They do that so that they're more comfortable.

Here's what it's good for... *and is profitable...* The word "profitable" in the Bible is opposite of the word "vain." "Vain" means good for nothing; "profitable" means good for something... *for doctrine.* So all of our doctrine, as Christians, every rule that we need to live by, every wise decision and every advice is in the Bible.

So when you hear something strange but it's a Christian doctrine straight from the Bible, you can count that it's from God, doctrine... *for reproof...* which means showing what's wrong and calling it out. That's what we do on the BibleTalk Radio Show. I tell you, dear listener, without shame, these religions are wrong because I'm reproofing them. I'm telling you that they're leading you straight to Hell by their religious things that were made up, traditions that were made up by their religious leaders

over the years, over the centuries. So it's good for reproof. It's also good *for correction...* Okay, so not only for calling out what's wrong but showing how to get it right, *for correction.* And then, *for instruction in righteousness...* meaning how to become more mature in the Word of God and keeping it right.

So, as you can see, the Bible has everything that a person needs. I'm going to make a statement here that most people don't ever get to hear. Not only is the Bible good for everyday life, all of our answers, I will dare to say that the Bible is like a key that was designed to fit in one lock and that lock is our soul. I would dare to say that man was created as a keyhole that needs a key and that key is the Word of God, because you cannot even understand the Saviour without the Word of God.

[Ms. Ypille:] Oh, yes, many things, life itself, too, how to go on, hope, inspiration.

So, how to understand the Bible? You must be born again. Dear listener, are you saved? That's the most important question. Are you 100% sure. Do you realize that you're a sinner? The Bible says that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Do you realize what Jesus did for you? He came and He died on that cross and took your sins. He was buried and He rose again the third day. He rose again so He's alive today with authority to give you new life, eternal life. Do you realize that you can call upon the Lord today to be saved? Romans 10:13: *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall...* That's a promise... *be saved.*

Dear listener, that's our lesson on "How to Understand the Bible."