

BE ON GUARD

2Pe.3:14-18

Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

AGE-OLD PROBLEM: DISTORTING THE SCRIPTURES

Misunderstanding and misapplying Old Testament Scriptures. Joh.5:39-40, 7:52

Satan misapplying Scripture. Mat.4:6

People misunderstanding and misquoting Jesus. Joh.21:21-23

Detractors belittling Apostle's teachings. 1Co.14:36-37

BASICALLY, THERE ARE FOUR WAYS IN WHICH SCRIPTURES ARE HANDLED

Sincerely, but misunderstood and misapplied.

Searched diligently for support of pre-conceived beliefs.

Desire to create support for beliefs gives birth to "proof-texting."

(Thus the basis for the saying, "you can prove anything by the Bible.")

Abused (dishonest, self-deluded), who knowingly twist Scriptures.

Honest and sincere inquiry; wherein one is willing to accept what is written (setting aside previously held beliefs or notions).

This is the correct way, but it is the most difficult way.

BE ON GUARD FOR METHODS OF DISTORTING THE SCRIPTURES

Isolating a word

"Love," and "grace"—stressing that man does nothing to be saved; thus ignoring:

"obey" Rom.6:17, and "works" Jam.2:26.

Isolating a verse

1Co.1:17 baptism not important. (note :12-17)

Eph.2:5 saved by grace not works. (note :8-10)

Joh.3:16 saved by faith only. (note:17-21, 36, 3-7)

Isolating a point

Luk.23:39-43 thief on cross not baptized and he was with Jesus in "paradise."

(note Act.2:37-38 "every one of you")

Misapplying

Mar.16:17-18 snake handling by disciples. (note: power limited to those addressed)

Rev.7:1 (also Isa.11:12) Four corners of earth; thus the earth is flat.

Twisting to fit pre-conceived beliefs.

Isa.43:10,12 Jehovah's Witnesses name in the Bible.

Rom.8:39 eternal security. (note :12-13)

Warning: 2Pe.3:15a-16

Reading into a passage things not mentioned.

Rev.20:4-10 Christ returning to earth to reign 1,000 years, etc. (no mention of: Christ setting foot on earth again; bodily resurrected to live 1,000 years on earth); assembling of Jews in Palestine; earthly kingdom; "rapture."

Warning: 2Co.1:13

Making incidentals essential.

Meeting in an upper room

Mar.14:15 Jesus instituted the "communion" in an upper room.

Act.1:13 Apostles met and waited in an upper room.

Act.20:8 Disciples met in an upper room.

Making general application of the limited.

Judas had a successor; Apostles (i.e., Peter) had successors.

Act.1:20 (no replacement for sought for James. Act.12:2)

Tongue-speaking then, also done today. 1Co.14:1 (note 13:8)

If one gift of Spirit is given today; then all are given including prophecy.

Misconstruing words; shifting the emphasis.

"Cup" means only one container can be used for communion. Mat.26:27

The contents is what is important. Impossible to have only one container.

"Children" elders must have more than one child. 1Tim.3:4

Word doesn't mandate plurality; control is mandated. Cf. 1Tim.5:4

"Think so" given equal weight of "says-so."

Own interpretation given as proof.

Re-interpreting scripture.

New hermeneutics: Using settings, circumstances, and "new" insight to conclude that what is plain to the casual reader isn't really the case.

Warning: 1Ti.6:20. (***Professing to be wise, become fools.*** Rom.1:22)

THE SOLUTION: GROW IN GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE

2Ti.2:15. Truth (Joh.17:17) must be preserved.

Study and search the Scriptures to know truth, not create "truth."

Careless or dishonest handling will result in error being believed.

Live by these principles of truth. 2Pe.1:10-11

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Joh.8:32