

CAN WE SEE THE BIBLE ALIKE? (Philippians 2:14-16)

I. The Bible is God's revelation.

- A. 2 Peter 1:20-21.
- B. 1 Corinthians 14:37.
- C. 2 Timothy 3:16.
- D. These verses all tell us the same thing: God has spoken by men, to men for men.
- E. What we see in the Bible is God reaching down to man to enable man to reach up to God.

II. The Bible has been accurately translated.

- A. There aren't a lot of Greek, Hebrew or Aramaic scholars around.
- B. However, the Bible has been accurately translated.
 - 1. The most loved translation is the King James.
 - 2. The most accurate translation is the American Standard Version.
 - 3. The most readable are the New King James or the English Standard Versions.
 - 4. There are some that are not accurate translations such as the Contemporary English Version and others.
 - 5. Some are not accurate in all places such as the NIV or the Revised Standard Versions.
- C. To understand God's will, a good translation is vital.

III. The Bible is complete.

- A. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
- B. Jude 3 - The American Standard Version renders the last phrase as "to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints."
 - 1. The ESV has "the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."
 - 2. The idea in the phrase is that it was delivered once and for all, never to be delivered again.
 - 3. What we have is God's word and will just as He wanted us to have it.
- C. All we need is in this grand book (2 Peter 1:3).

IV. The Bible is understandable.

- A. A person of average intelligence can understand the Bible.
 - 1. It doesn't take a high school graduate or a college diploma to understand God's word.
 - a. The average word in the Bible has 2 syllables.
 - b. Mark 12:37; John 7:17.
 - 2. If it's impossible to understand the Bible then why give it?
 - a. It would be an insult to God's wisdom and intelligence to give us a book we can't understand alike.
 - b. God expects us to learn from what is written (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11)
 - c. If the Bible can't be understood it is a cruel joke because it claims we can understand it.

- B. A honest man can understand it.
 - 1. You and I are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26).
 - a. Man has the ability to think, reason and come to conclusions because he is made in God's image.
 - b. Jesus pleads with us to learn the truth (John 8:32).
 - 2. We can know the truth.
 - a. Jesus said we could.
 - b. The people in the 1st century learned it.
 - c. We can learn the truth today.
 - 3. God's truths are the same now as they were then.
 - a. The Bible is God's complete will for man.
 - b. Truth has not and will not change (Mark 13:31).
- C. God expects us to reach conclusions.
 - 1. Romans 10:17.
 - 2. Ephesians 3:4.
 - a. The word understand means to comprehend.
 - b. If we can't understand the Bible why did God give it to us?
 - 3. Ephesians 5:17.

V. Why don't we all see the Bible alike?

- A. There are at least three reasons why we don't.
- B. Ignorance.
 - 1. People don't know because they haven't studied.
 - 2. Some are ignorant and don't mind remaining that way.
 - 3. However, we are to study (1 Peter 2:2).
- C. Prejudice.
 - 1. This word means preconceived idea or opinion.
 - 2. Some people have their minds made up before they look at the evidence.
 - 3. There is no way to understand the Bible properly with prejudice.
 - a. This make the Bible bend to our beliefs.
 - b. Instead of us submitting to its teachings, we make the Bible to submit to us.
 - 4. The creeds of men are the preconceived teachings of men.
- D. Foolish thinking.
 - 1. This is how some people think:
 - a. If there is a disagreement among religious people then no one is right.
 - b. There are disagreements.
 - c. Thus no one is right.
 - 2. This is not reasonable nor correct.
 - a. It isn't true that because there are disagreements that no one is correct.
 - b. Many have falsely concluded that since there is differences in religion then no one is right or that no one can fully know the truth.

VI. We can understand the Bible alike.

- A. Timothy understood (2 Timothy 3:15).
 - 1. He understood from childhood.
 - 2. This was the Old Testament.
- B. Books were to be read to the congregations (1 Thessalonians 5:27; Colossians 4:16).
- C. Paul said that when they read they would understand (Ephesians 3:4).
- D. We can understand it alike.
 - 1. This is the only way we can understand it.
 - 2. It offers truth on every spiritual subject.
- E. We can understand it alike and we must understand it alike.
- F. If we don't, someone has misunderstood it.

From a sermon outline by Arthur Pigman.