

April 11, 2018

Mid-Week Connection

Connecting to God & Each Other

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PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

David Born traveling
Margaret Lantz
Ray Stelzl
Philip (Pop) Funk
Fred Cooley
Woody Bolton
Becky Hawes
David Bean
Audrey Herring
John Woodall
Nancy Barnes
Joel and Janet Jones
Ron Parks
Philip Funk Jr.
Jackie Barbe
Frank Couto
Blaine Tewalt
Ryan Denharat
Sandy Holzhauser
Vita Torres
Jeff Pingley
Wendy Willoughby
Elaine Appleton
Robert Jenkins
Diana Wines

Sharon Derflinger
Bob Baleskie
Tim Gunter
Anita Farris
Bobby Jo Henderson
Kenny Henderson Jr.
Ruth Brooks
Sharon Jenkins
Gloria Van Arsdall
Jamie Shell
Marty Jones
Jamie James
John Taylor
Irene Alger
Lisa Settle
Scott McCool
Jaden Turner
Kim Wines
Remi Wines
Debbie Martin
Doris & Donald Jones
Carol & Doug Ritenour
Dolores Williams
Barbara Swisher



New Class 4/15 Christian Conscience

Pantry Items Needed Corn meal mix, Dry Cereals

Spring Lectures 4/13-15 Purcellville CofC

Men's Meeting 4/15/2018 1 to 2



How can everyone read the same Bible and come to different conclusions about what it means? If we're all reading the same book, why don't we all believe and practice the same things? Here are some thoughts about why we don't all understand the Bible alike.

Lord's Day Servers

April 15, 2018

Art Candenquist*

Wilson Diaz

Mark Derflinger

Bib Baleskie

Song Leaders

Eugene Tewalt am

Wilson Diaz pm

Share Scripture

Art Candenquist

Times of Service

Sunday Worship 11:00am

Sunday Bible Study 10am 2pm

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00pm

All Church Fellowship

April 15, 2018

Not the Reason

First of all, you need to give people the benefit of the doubt. Don't assume they are lazy, ignorant, or rebellious. There are honest, sincere, God-fearing people from every religious tradition. That doesn't mean, of course, that everyone is equally right or no one is wrong. It just means, typically the problem is NOT people's motives or work ethic.

Statements like this, "Well, if people would just read their Bibles, they would see it clearly says..." are rarely helpful. After all, the people who disagree with you are probably thinking the same thing. They are thinking you just need to start reading your Bible and you would see they are clearly right.

An Illustration

Imagine there are seven children in a family. Each of the children is a different age and has different things going on in his or her life: one is hungry, one has baseball practice that evening, one is having trouble with a boyfriend, & one just failed his history test.

All seven of the children walk into the kitchen to discover their father is on the phone with their mother, who is out of town for the week. Without interrupting the phone conversation, they decide they will try to glean the information they need by listening to everything their father says to their mother.

They listen as their father asks and answers several questions and they try to piece together an idea of what kind of mood their father is in, what they are going to have for supper, and what the evening plans are. It's easy to see how some children will inevitably walk away with differing impressions and understandings.

One reason the children will not understand the conversation alike is none of them can hear both sides of the conversation. They can only hear what their father is saying, but not their mother's end of the conversation. Another reason is, they are each asking different questions. They are listening from their unique perspective and trying to understand something about which the other children do not care.

Understanding the Bible Alike

Reading the New Testament is like listening to one side of a telephone conversation. The apostle or evangelist who wrote each book was having a conversation with the original audience, answering their particular questions and addressing their particular problems. This is true for the Gospel accounts, the book of Acts, the epistles, and the book of Revelation. It is even true of the Old Testament.

One reason we struggle to understand the Bible alike is we are coming to the Bible asking the wrong questions. We are trying to force the Bible to answer our questions, rather than asking, "What issues is the Bible actually addressing and how is it addressing those issues?" The only way to come to similar understandings of the Bible is to start with the same question.

Primary Issues

The primary issues of the Bible are the issues the Bible specifically addresses. These must be our primary concern. Paul wrote: For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

The Bible specifically addresses questions about who Jesus is, what His death means, what His resurrection means, and how to become a redeemed citizen of His kingdom.

The things Scripture specifically addresses must be our primary concern. We must strive to understand what the biblical authors were saying to their original audience. Only then will we be able to understand how that message applies to us today.

Secondary Issues

Listening to one side of a phone conversation, the seven children can understand, "Dad told mom he would pick her up at the airport tomorrow evening at 3:00." The issue of picking mom up at the airport was directly addressed in the conversation, therefore it is a primary issue.

However, the issue of Sarah's recital that is supposed to take place on the same evening at 4:30 was not directly addressed. How can the children know whether or not their parents will make it to the recital? Though that issue wasn't specifically addressed, it may be possible to piece together an answer to that question, based on other things that were said.

There are many issues the Bible does not address directly, but we can piece together a proper understanding by taking the whole of Scripture into consideration. We must be very careful with this of course, because it is possible to allow our own bias to cloud our judgement.

Many of these secondary issues revolve around things the biblical authors and audiences took for granted. They didn't address some issues, because the answers would have been obvious to them based on everything they knew about God and His will.

Non-Issues

There are other issues and questions we might call, "non-issues." These are things Scripture simply doesn't address either directly or indirectly. Like the children listening to their parents' conversation, one of them might ask, "What did they say about eating candy?" The honest answer might be, "They didn't say anything about it."

How should we approach these non-issues in Scripture? How do we handle issues like whether or not a Christian can – or should – vote in an election, when voting is something never addressed directly or indirectly in Scripture?

We handle these issues with sobriety, humility, reverence for God, grace for our Christian brothers and sisters, love, and a desire to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (see Romans 14 and Ephesians 4).

Bottom Line

We need to start with the question, "What issues is the Bible actually addressing and how is it addressing those issues?" We need to be willing to accept the full implications of what we discover. And we need to be willing to say, when appropriate, "The Bible doesn't address that issue."

We will always have differences of opinions, but it is possible to be on the same page about matters of first importance, have a solid understanding of secondary issues, and not let "non-issues" come between us.

God loves you and I love you too

Wes McAdam

1. What kinds of people fail to agree on bible issues.
2. Explain the difference between Primary and Secondary Issues
3. Explain the Bottom Line in bible understanding.