

# THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE: PART 3

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*The centerpiece of reformed theology, recovered at the reformation, is not election, predestination, or even justification by faith, rather it is the doctrine of Scripture.*

## **ACCUSATIONS! ACCUSATIONS!**

Thousands of denominations and branches. Thousands of cults and spinoff groups. Is the final authority of Scripture meaningless?

The authority of Scripture is meaningless apart from the \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture.

The **WCF** and **LBCF** says, "*All things in scripture are not equally plain in themselves, nor equally clear to everyone, yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed and observed for salvation, are so clearly propounded and revealed in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the educated but also the uneducated may attain a sufficient understanding of them by the due use of ordinary means.*"

In other words, the central truths of the Christian faith are so clear in Scripture, that by the ordinary means of reading words, sentences, paragraphs, the truth is unmistakable. This does not include all things in Scripture, but those meant to be believed and observed for salvation and Christian growth.

## **THE SCRIPTURES ARE \_\_\_\_\_, AND CAN BE UNDERSTOOD \_\_\_\_\_**

**Deuteronomy 6:6–7** says, "*And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*"

**Psalms 19:7** says, "*the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.*"

**Psalms 119:130** says, "*The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.*"

**Colossians 4:16** says, "*And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.*"

**2 Peter 3:15–16** says, "*And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, <sup>16</sup>as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.*"

**2 Timothy 3:15** says, "*from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*"

## JESUS' VIEW ON THE CLARITY OF SCRIPTURE

As Jesus dealt with all of these abuses of Scripture he never once accuses the OT of being \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 12:3** says, "Jesus said to them, 'Have you not read what David did when he was hungry'"

**Matthew 12:5** says, "Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless?"

**Matthew 19:4–5** says, "He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"

**Matthew 21:42** says, "Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

**Matthew 22:29, 31–32** says, "But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God....And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living."

**John 3:10** says, "Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?"

## WHY PEOPLE \_\_\_\_\_ THE CENTRAL TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE

**Matthew 15:3** says, "He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?"

**2 Peter 3:15–16** says, "And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, <sup>16</sup>as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures."

1) A lack of \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Corinthians 2:14** says, "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."

**1 John 2:27** says, "But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him."

2) A lack of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Luke 24:25–27** says, "And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."

3) A lack of \_\_\_\_\_.

**James 1:22–25** says, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

How do we avoid these issues?

1. \_\_\_\_\_.

2. \_\_\_\_\_.

3. \_\_\_\_\_.

## **PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE CLARITY OF SCRIPTURE**

What is the clarity of Scripture? The central truths of the Christian faith are so clear in Scripture, that by the ordinary means of reading words, sentences, paragraphs, the meaning is unmistakable. Not all things in Scripture, but those meant to be believed and observed for salvation and Christian growth.

1) \_\_\_\_\_ the word.

2) Disagreements exist not because of the text, but because of \_\_\_\_\_.

3) You don't need \_\_\_\_\_ to understand the Bible.

4) The text has \_\_\_\_\_ meaning. It means what it always meant.

5) Don't have a \_\_\_\_\_ approach to the Scriptures.