

DO WE UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE? - LESSON 5 - TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Intro:

- A. Homework Assignment from last week - Do you understand the Bible? {3 Minutes}
 1. Yes or No - Prove Your Answer.
 2. Note - I did not ask you to explain or expand on your understanding or lack of understanding - I asked you to PROVE IT!
 3. Keep It Simple Silly! (The KISS effect of the answer)
 - a. Raise your hands if you are a Child of God, washed in the Blood of Jesus, added to His Body looking to your Eternal Reward!
 - b. By raising your hands - you have proved that you understand the Bible.
 - (1) What is the PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE?
 - (a) To Convict US of Sin
 - (b) Of Righteousness
 - (c) And of the Judgment to Come.
 - (2) This is the simplicity of the Proof Needed.
 - B. Now why this question - **Acts 8:30** (NKJV) — 30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” - Phillip asked - “Do you UNDERSTAND what you are reading?”
 1. He was reading from his bible of that day and time - focused in Isa 53.
 - a. His Answer was NO!
 2. His request - I need Guidance - **Acts 8:31** (NKJV) — 31 And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.
 - a. He invited Phillip to join him - the personal study now begins.
 3. He started at that Scripture {last weeks study} and preached JESUS.
 4. The result - a CONVERSION.
 - C. Tonight’s “TOOL of the TRADE” - focuses on “Listening with UNDERSTANDING - so that we can guide our prospect in the RIGHT DIRECTION.
 1. Saw a sign that said - “To hear the voice of GOD, we must cancel first the noise of the World”
 - a. I want to use this to focus our minds on that very same thought - “To successfully guide on to the TRUTH - we must cancel out the NOISE of our thinking - and HEAR WHAT they are asking and NEEDING”.
 2. Let Us Now turn our attention to a TOOL of the TRADE that will help us navigate this.
- II. Firstly **WE CAN AND WE MUST** Understand The Bible - this must be established quickly.- **Ephesians 5:17** (NKJV) — 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
1. **Hebrews 1:1-2** (NKJV) — 1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;
- B. In order to do that we MUST....
1. HAVE THE DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND – **John 7:17; Psa. 119:10,97; John 8:32**
 - a. **John 7:17** (NKJV) — 17 If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.
 - b. **Psalm 119:10** (NKJV) — 10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!
 - c. **Psalm 119:97** (NKJV) — 97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.
 - d. **John 8:32** (NKJV) — 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
 2. WE MUST READ IT – **Eph. 3:2,4 ; 2 Tim. 2:15**
 - a. **Ephesians 3:2** (NKJV) — 2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God

which was given to me for you,

- (1) **Ephesians 3:4** (NKJV) — 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),
- b. And Study It - **2 Timothy 2:15** (NKJV) — 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

III. Secondly **UNDERSTAND A LITTLE** about the BOOK we are looking At.

A. By this I mean - THE DISPENSATIONS OF THE BIBLE

1. Patriarchal
2. Mosaical
 - a. Which make Up the Old Testament
3. Christian
 - a. Which makes Up the NEW TESTAMENT.
4. These are Three Distinct Dispensations!
 - a. Which Have a STARTING POINT and an ENDING POINT.
 - b. At this point I'm going to guide you to understand ONE IMPORTANT fact!

B. The Patriarchal PERIOD - Given Orally to "ALL MEN" - **Hebrews 1:1** (NKJV) — 1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

1. Its beginning point starts with - Creation – **Gen. 1:1**
2. Tells of the Beginning of Sin – **Gen 3**
3. Gives the Promise of Redemption – **Genesis 3:15** (NKJV) — 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”
4. Includes Acceptable Worship – **Gen. 4:1-8** cf. **Hebrews 11:4** (NKJV) — 4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.
 - a. HERE IS THE ONE FACT TO NOTE - this period has - GRACE – FAITH – OBEDIENCE – **Genesis 6:8-22**
 - (1) GOD'S GRACE + NOAH'S FAITH + HIS OBEDIENCE cf **Genesis 6:22** (NKJV) — 22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.
 - b. Keep this in mind.

C. Next - Mosaical Period - also know as the LAW of MOSES

1. What here is different from the 1st period is that it is a "WRITTEN LAW" given to the "JEWS" ONLY! - **Deuteronomy 5:2-3** (NKJV) — 2 The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. 3 The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive.
2. It has distinct Places of Worship
 - a. Tabernacle – **Ex. 26**
 - b. Temple – **Deut. 16:16**
3. SOME OF THE LAWS INCLUDE:
 - a. The Sabbath Day of REST – **Ex. 20:8**
 - b. Circumcision of the male child
 - c. Animal Sacrifices
 - d. And Instrumental Music – **2 Chronicles 29:25** (NKJV) — 25 And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus was the commandment of the LORD by his prophets.
4. BUT it is and was - Temporary in Nature – **Galatians 3:19** (NKJV) — 19 What purpose then

does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

- a. **Galatians 3:24** (NKJV) — 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
 - b. It's function was a tutor.
5. HERE IS THE ONE FACT TO NOTE - this period also has - GRACE – FAITH – OBEDIENCE
- D. LASTLY - THE CHRISTIAN PERIOD - WRITTEN – All Men - **Galatians 3:28** (NKJV) — 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ; **2 Timothy 3:17** (NKJV) — 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
1. For All Nations
 - a. This period teaches us about: Christ, The Sacrifice for Sins – **Hebrews 10:4–10** (NKJV) — 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.’ ” 8 Previously saying, “Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them” (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.” He takes away the first that He may establish the second. 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
 - b. Laws include:
 - (1) Baptism for Remission of Sins – **Acts 2:38**
 - (2) Church = Equals the Body of Saved – **Eph 5:23**
 - (3) Worship – **John 4:23ff** ; 1st Day of Week – **Acts 20:7**
 - c. And Return of Christ & The End of Time
 2. AND JUST like the other two PERIODS - GRACE – FAITH – OBEDIENCE
 - a. This is important to NOTE - because “GOD CHANGES NOT - He is the same today and He was yesterday and WILL be tomorrow.”
- E. So WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO KNOW?

IV. **THIS IS THE FOUNDATION TOOL** - Thirdly CONSIDER THIS FACT

- A. THE AMERICAN COLONISTS LIVED UNDER THE LAWS OF ENGLAND UNTIL 1776, UNDER THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION FROM 1781-1789, AND UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1789
 1. Beginning POINTS and ENDING POINTS - just as we have noted in our Biblical Dispensations.
- B. So, likewise, God has had THREE DIFFERENT LAWS For THREE DISTINCT PERIODS OF HISTORY!
 1. Under what Law are we today - here in the USA?
 - a. Can I go back and live under one of the other laws in History todayie. Tax laws etc.?
 - b. Why do we learn and teach about these laws of History in our schools today?
 2. WHAT about BIBLICALLY SPEAKING?
 - a. What LAW are we under TODAY?
 - b. Can I go back and live under those OLD LAWS?
 - c. Can I bring LAWS from those periods of times and DO THEM TODAY?
 - (1) ONLY if they are restated in the NEW LAW.
- C. IN A NUT SHELL - THE BIBLE TEACHES - JESUS WOULD COME, THAT HE DID COME AND IS COMING AGAIN. - ARE YOU READY! DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS FACT?