

## ***Why don't we all see the Bible alike?***

(by George Battey)

Look around your neighborhood and see all the different kinds of churches. Isn't evident that people don't see the Bible alike? Why are there so many different churches, teaching so many different things and all claiming they're following just the Bible?

- There is only one true God, one Lord, one Holy Spirit, one faith, one baptism, one body and one hope (Ephesians 4:4-6).
- Jesus prayed that all believers would be united (John 17:21).
- The apostle Paul pleaded that there be no divisions among the Lord's people (1 Corinthians 1:10).

Why, then, don't we all see the Bible alike and have unity?

### **DIFFERENT ATTITUDES**

One reason men do not see the Bible alike is because of different attitudes toward the Bible.

- 1) **Some have the idea that the Bible cannot be understood.** They believe the Bible is beyond human comprehension.

If this theory is true, then we are all hopelessly lost because we must do what the Bible says in order to be saved!

*Matthew 7:21* (NKJV)

*21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*

If we must do the Father's will in order to be saved, but we cannot understand His will, it follows that we are hopelessly lost.

- 2) **Some think the Bible was not meant to be understood alike.** But this would make God a respecter of persons. He would be saving one man in a certain way and another man in a different fashion. But the Bible clearly teaches that when God speaks, He speaks to all alike.

*Acts 10:34-35 (NKJV)*

*34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.*

*35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.*

Since God is no respecter of persons, He will require the same thing from every man. He will not require one man to be baptized and then require something less from another man.

There are a thousand ways to misunderstand the Bible, but there is only one way to understand it and if people understand the Bible they will of necessity understand it alike.

## **INFLUENCE OF PARENTS**

Another reason people do not understand the Bible alike is because of the influence of their parents.

Most children today refuse to follow the lead of their parents in standards of morality, courtship, and ideals. They consider their parents old-fashioned and out of date. They refuse to dress like their parents, or to live like their parents, but when it comes to religion they follow their parents regardless of what the Bible may say.

It is a tragic thing when people put their parents above Jesus. The Lord said:

*Matthew 10:37 (NKJV)*

*37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*

Our parents shall answer someday for what they have done, but we shall answer to God for what we ourselves have done. We must put the Lord first and follow Him, not our parents.

## **DIFFERENT RULES OF STUDY**

A third reason why men do not see the Bible alike is because people use different rules of Bible study.

- 1) **Some think that anything is acceptable in religion so long as the Bible does not specifically forbid it.**
- 2) **Others believe that only those things which are revealed in the Scriptures may be practiced.**

Of these two basic philosophies, which one is right? Surprisingly, the Scriptures tell us exactly which method to use and which is wrong:

*Deuteronomy 29:29 (NKJV)*

*29 "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

Do you see the point of this passage? Those secret things which God did not say anything about "belong unto the Lord" and we may not presume upon His silence and do these things. But "those things which are revealed" we may safely do and expect a blessing from God.

- For example, even though the New Testament does not specifically condemn the use in instrumental music, it is wrong because instrumental music has not been revealed to the New Testament church. On the other hand, we may safely use vocal, a cappella singing because this practice has been revealed in Ephesians 5:19.
- Again, even though the New Testament does not specifically condemn the practice of sprinkling for baptism, it is wrong because sprinkling has not been revealed to the New Testament church. Instead, the church today **MUST** practice immersion only in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins, because this is exactly what has been revealed in Matthew 28:19 and Acts 2:38.

## **A REFUSAL TO SUBMIT**

There are many reasons why men see the Bible differently, but there is one more prominent reason I would like to share with you before closing.

Many people do not see the Bible alike because they refuse to submit to the authority of God. This is a sad, but true statement.

- Many preachers know that 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 condemns women speaking in the church. But that is an unpopular thing to teach now days. Church membership would fall off if preachers taught this passage. So, in order to have big crowds they must interpret the Bible in such a way so that 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 means nothing at all! Rather than accepting the plain meaning of the passage, they must twist the passage so it means nothing to them. Rather than submitting to the Bible, the Bible must submit to them and so for this reason we do not all understand the Bible alike.
- Again, many preachers know that Mark 16:16 requires both belief and baptism in water in order for a sinner to be saved. But this is also an unpopular thing. Church membership would fall off if preachers taught the plain meaning of this passage. So, to maintain large crowds, they must interpret the Bible so that baptism means nothing at all. They have twisted the Scriptures so as to make baptism an option rather than a command. They say, "You can get baptized if you want, but you can refrain if you choose."

The basic problem is that men refuse to submit to God and they insist that God submit to them and accept them on their own terms.

## **SUMMARY**

My friend, these are just some of the reasons why we do not see the Bible alike! As long as men refuse to submit to God and forsake their own ways, men will always see the Bible differently. But when men deny themselves and submit to the Lord, they will see the Bible alike and there will be unity.

*Psalms 133:1 (NKJV)*

*1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is  
For brethren to dwell together in unity!*

## **GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION**

Five steps in God's plan of salvation:

- 1) **Hear** the word of God (Rom 10:17).
- 2) **Believe** Jesus is the Son of God (Mk 16:16).
- 3) **Repent** of sins (change from living a sinful life) (Acts 2:38).
- 4) **Confess** your faith verbally before men (Rom 10:10).
- 5) **Be baptized** (immersed) in water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Mt 28:19) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

*Mark 16:16 (NKJV)*

*16 He who **believes** and is **baptized** will be saved; ...*

Acts 2:38 (NKJV)

38 Then Peter said to them, "**Repent, and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**; ...**

After being baptized, one must continue to be faithful (Acts 2:42; Mt 28:20; Rev 2:10).