

I Just Can't Understand The Bible!

Joe Slater

Yes. You. Can!

Will it be easy peasy lemon squeezy? Not likely. Will you understand everything completely the first time you read it? Of course not, but you could say that about practically anything.

One major religion teaches that the “laity” (as opposed to the “clergy”) cannot understand the Bible, so that group’s hierarchy must interpret it and tell the people what it means. Paul the apostle disagrees! “*By revelation He (the Lord) made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)*” (Ephesians 3:3-4).

Now that same apostle wrote “*some things hard to understand.*” So said another apostle (2 Peter 3:16). But he didn’t say “impossible to understand,” nor did he suggest not even trying to understand.

The blessed man’s “*delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night*” (Psalm 1:2). Yes, understanding the Bible takes study (not mere reading) and serious thought. “*Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day*” (Psalm 119:97).

Take full advantage of every opportunity to understand the Bible. Study in private. Study with others in Bible classes. While going about your daily tasks, think about what you have read from the Scriptures. Difficult passages will become clearer as you study and learn texts that are more obvious. And remember, understanding is not an end in itself. “*Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves*” (James 1:22).

“*Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is*” (Ephesians 5:17).

Get Over Yourself

Proverbs 16:5 says, “*The Lord despises pride.*” So, get over yourself!

An elementary school boy came home from tryouts for the school play. “Mommy, Mommy” he announced, “I got a part. I’ve been chosen to sit in the audience and clap and cheer.” When you have a chance to clap and cheer, do you take it? If you do, your head is starting to fit your hat size.

Demanding respect is like chasing a butterfly. Chase it, and you’ll never catch it. Sit still, and it may light on your shoulder. The Bible says in Proverbs 27:2, “*Don’t praise yourself. Let someone else do it.*” Does your self-esteem need attention? You need only pause at the base of the cross and be reminded of this: The Maker of the stars would rather die for you than live without you. And that’s a fact!

--Jim Avery (via Facebook)

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Bad Bible Study

Bad Bible study starts with a conclusion and finds a way to support it.

Robin Hood didn’t become a good archer by shooting arrows at random and then drawing a bullseye around them wherever they landed. Neither will we become good Bible students by coming to the text with a conclusion and then drawing a bullseye around it by finding a way to make the Scriptures say what we want.

--Jack Wilkie (via *Think Magazine*)

Either Scripture will be the lens through which you view the world, or the world will be the lens through which you view Scripture. Ultimately, one or the other will be your authority.

--Dustin Bengé (via Facebook)

An Ode To The Dislocated

I looked around our Bible class

Last Sunday, and 'tis true;

Familiar faces greeted me,

But I couldn't locate you.

And Sunday night - it was the same -

It made me feel so blue.

Though heartened by the ones who came,

I couldn't locate you.

Then Wednesday evening brought us back,

The usual mid-week crew;

I searched and hoped and searched some more,

But I couldn't locate you.

It seems so often when we meet

And find our favorite pew,

That something's missing; something's wrong -

We just can't locate you.

You're missed, you know! We want you back!

You need to be here, too.

We'd hate to search through heaven,

Unable to locate you.

--Dalton Key (Tulsa, OK) via *Old Paths*

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(Quote attributed to Paul Revere's Wife): “I don't care who's coming, tonight's my night to have the horse!”