

## HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE?

Thursday Bible Study

ACA Avadi Church

11 January 2024

### Psalm 119:18 -

Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.

- God wants us to understand the Scriptures
- God does not want us to become blind, deaf, mute and lose all our senses in our journey of faith

### Matthew 28:19-20 -

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 **teaching them to observe all things** that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

- Whether we sing, pray, read or follow - God wants us to understand and do it.

### 1 Corinthians 14:15

What is *the conclusion* then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also **pray with the understanding**. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also **sing with the understanding**.

- The Bible encourages us to gain, gather and increasing in understanding
- Christian faith is not a cult where questioning searching the truth is discouraged
- Jesus encouraged his listeners to ask questions and gladly answered them.

### 2 Timothy 2:7

Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

- **Without understanding the Bible, we cannot apply it, obey it, or believe it.**

- The Bible sometimes seems hard to understand primarily because this book is no ordinary book, written by humans with their human wisdom.
- Though it was written in Human Languages, the Holy Bible is God breathed and God God-inspired.

### 2 Timothy 3:16 -

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness

### 2 Peter 1:21 -

20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as *they were moved by the Holy Spirit*.

- We can understand human speech because we have the Human Spirit.
- But we cannot understand the language of animals because we do not have the Animal Spirit in us.
- Likewise, without the help of the Holy Spirit, we cannot understand what was written by the Spirit of God

### **The Word of God cannot be Understood by using the Wisdom of Man**

- It is a Hidden Wisdom
- None of the Princes of this World knew
- Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared
- Unless the Spirit of God reveals them to us we cannot understand

### **1 Corinthians 2:11**

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

- Kindly read the following passages of Scripture to know how the listeners did not understand the words of Jesus...

### **TWO INSTANCES WHEN HIS LISTENERS COULD NOT UNDERSTAND**

#### **1st Instance: The Illustration of the Shepherd**

##### **John 10:1-6**

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>"But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>"To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>"And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>"Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>**Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.**

#### **2nd Instance: The Teaching of Jesus about the Father**

##### **John 8:21-27**

Then Jesus said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come." <sup>22</sup>So the Jews said, "**Will He kill Himself, because He says, 'Where I go you cannot come'?**" <sup>23</sup>And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. <sup>24</sup>"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins." <sup>25</sup>**Then they said to Him, "Who are You?"** And Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. <sup>26</sup>"I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those

things which I heard from Him." <sup>27</sup>**They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father.**

- Jesus revealed the truth of the Kingdom of God by speaking in Parables.

### **Matthew 13:10-13**

And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" <sup>11</sup>He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. <sup>12</sup>"For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. <sup>13</sup>"Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, **nor do they understand.**

## **7 WAYS TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE**

### **1. \_\_\_\_\_ & UNDERSTAND**

#### **Matthew 24:15**

"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" **(whoever reads, let him understand)**

#### **Ephesians 3:4 (T-5)**

<sup>2</sup>if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, <sup>4</sup>by which, **when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)**

#### **1 Timothy 4:13**

Till I come, **give attention to reading**, to exhortation, to doctrine.

#### **Nehemiah 8:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who *could* hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. **3 Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday**, before the men and women and those who could understand; and **the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.**

### **2. \_\_\_\_\_ & UNDERSTAND**

The Psalmist often prayed that God would give Understanding to learn the Word of God.

#### **Psalm 119:73**

Your hands have made me and fashioned me; **Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.**

#### **Psalm 119:27**

**Make me understand** the way of Your precepts; So shall I meditate on Your wonderful works.

### **Psalm 119:34**

**Give me understanding**, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart

- We cannot understand the Word of God by depending on Worldly Wisdom
- Just having Mastery over languages will not guarantee Understanding the Word of God fully
- Some think that learning Greek or Hebrew alone can give us full understanding of the Scriptures
- But we fail to realize that people who reject Jesus and His message were those who read the Word of God in their Native Language: Greek and Hebrew.
- Only God gives us Understanding to know the truth that is hidden in His Word.

### **Depend on God for Understanding**

#### **Luke 24:44-45**

Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me." <sup>45</sup>And **He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.**

### **3. \_\_\_\_\_ & UNDERSTAND**

Those along with Ezra HELPED the people understand the Reading of the Law

#### **Nehemiah 8:7-8**

7 Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, **helped the people to understand the Law**; and the people stood in their place. <sup>8</sup>So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they **gave the sense, and helped them to understand** the reading.

THE DISCIPLES WERE AFRAID TO ASK JESUS

#### **Mark 9:30-32**

30 Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know *it*. <sup>31</sup>For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day." <sup>32</sup>But **they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him.**

- As Philip was traveling to Gaza, the Holy Spirit led him to a man who was reading a portion of Isaiah.
- Philip approached the man, saw what he was reading, and asked this very important question:

- **“Do you understand what you are reading?” (Acts 8:30).**
- Philip knew that *understanding* was the starting point for faith.

### Acts 8:26-31

Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is desert. <sup>27</sup>So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup>was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>And he said, **“How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.**

### Nehemiah 8:7-8

**7 helped the people to understand the Law;** and the people stood in their place. <sup>8</sup>So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they **gave the sense, and helped them to understand** the reading.

## 4. \_\_\_\_\_ & UNDERSTAND

### Matthew 16:5-12

**5** Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. <sup>6</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.” <sup>7</sup>And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “*It is because we have taken no bread.*” <sup>8</sup>But Jesus, being aware of *it*, said to them, “O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread? <sup>9</sup>“Do you not yet **understand, or remember** the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? <sup>10</sup>“Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up? <sup>11</sup>“How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?—*but* to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” <sup>12</sup>**Then they understood that He did not tell them** to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

- Understanding comes through Remembering what we learnt earlier
- Understanding something is the result of Information that is remembered and stacked one upon another.
- That is why the Holy Spirit was sent to REMIND US

### John 14:25-26 -

<sup>25</sup> “These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**

- VERY OFTEN WE READ IN THE EPISTLES THAT THEY WERE WRITTEN TO REMIND BELIEVERS OF THE TRUTHS THEY WERE TAUGHT EARLIER

### **Romans 15:15 (T-16)**

Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as **reminding you**, because of the grace given to me by God

### **1 Corinthians 4:17**

For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, **who will remind you of my ways in Christ**, as I teach everywhere in every church.

### **2 Peter 1:12-15**

12 For this reason **I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things**, though you know and are established in the present truth. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, **to stir you up by reminding you**, 14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. 15 Moreover **I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.**

## **5. \_\_\_\_\_ & UNDERSTAND**

### **Matthew 15:10**

When He had called the multitude to *Himself*, He said to them, **"Hear and understand:**

### **John 8:43**

"Why do you not understand My speech? **Because you are not able to listen to My word.**

### **Matthew 13:15**

For the hearts of this people have grown dull. **Their ears are hard of hearing**, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears, Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'

PAUL WAS PREACHING IN PHILIPPI

But a Young Man was sleeping during the Sermon

### **Acts 20:9.**

And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.

## **6. \_\_\_\_\_ AND UNDERSTAND**

### **John 12:12-16**

12 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup>took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of

Israel!" <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: <sup>15</sup>

"Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey's colt."

**<sup>16</sup>His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.**

### **John 13:6-7**

<sup>6</sup>Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

<sup>7</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, "**What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.**"

## **7. \_\_\_\_\_ & UNDERSTAND**

### **Hebrews 11:3**

**By faith we understand** that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

## **ANSWERS**

### **7 WAYS TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE**

1. READ & UNDERSTAND
2. PRAY & UNDERSTAND
3. ASK & UNDERSTAND (SEEK HELP)
4. REMEMBER & UNDERSTAND
5. HEAR & UNDERSTAND
6. WAIT AND UNDERSTAND
7. BELIEVE & UNDERSTAND