

For centuries men have interpreted the Bible in different ways. The unfortunate result is division, rancor, and ill-will within the religious community. People who study the Bible should know that God is not the author of confusion which is what religious division produces (1 Corinthians 14:33). Different interpretations of God's word produce divided families, divided communities and divided nations. Northern Ireland is divided and war has existed between the Protestants and Catholics for decades because they have different interpretations of God's word. Is this good? No. As a point in fact, this could have been avoided if people would understand the Bible the same.

Take secular history as an example of people understanding something the same. The Apollo 11, the first moon landing, took place on July 20, 1969. This is an historical fact upon which our entire nation has unity. Historical facts cannot be altered at the whim of someone's fancy. If the name of the space capsule or the date is changed then the information becomes untrue.

Mathematics is another field where in truth is absolute and therefore cannot be interpreted differently. Two plus two will always equal the sum of four. This simple equation is understood alike by people around the world regardless of nationality, language or religious preference. Any attempt to interpret a different sum will always be incorrect. For example $2+2=3$ is wrong; and $2+2=100$ is also incorrect. Truth, by its own nature, is very narrow in that it allows only one correct answer. There are not many correct answers, only one is correct. Options of choice are not permitted.

Scientifically speaking truth cannot be interpreted differently. Fire is hot and there is no debate over this. This is an absolute truth upon which there is complete unity. One touch of the flame will make a believer out of every person on earth. We also know also that neither time, culture, language, nor feelings can change this. If a person says that fire is not hot that person would be considered irrational.

Man's opinion cannot change truth. Man's prejudice cannot change something that is absolute. The Apollo 11, the math formula of $2+2=4$, fire being hot are absolute facts that cannot be changed. The point that we are coming to is that the Bible also contains truth and it has the same characteristic of being unchangeable (John 17:17).

Both the Old and the New Testament warn against any tampering with inspired scripture (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Galatians 1:6-9; Revelation 22:18-19). It is indeed strange that though God forbids changes in the Gospel, man does it anyway (Galatians 1:6-9). People will develop their own interpretations and these interpretations become doctrines (or creeds) that change the meaning of God's word. It is strange that the same people that would never think of changing facts of history, mathematics or science will not hesitate to change what the word of God says and develop their own doctrines.

For example, many denominations have removed baptism in water as an essential act of obedience necessary for salvation. They do this in contradiction to the fact that Jesus commanded belief and baptism as a part of His saving plan (Mark 16:15-16). Strangely, denominationalists say baptism is not necessary. The Bible clearly states that baptism washes away sin (Acts 22:16), puts one into Christ (Romans 6:3-4; Galatians. 3:27) and saves us (1 Peter 3:20-21). Incredibly, denominational interpretations decide that baptism is unnecessary and they will not teach people to obey what the Bible requires man to do to be saved.

Again, God's word says that women are not to publicly preach in the presence of men. 1 Timothy 2:11-12 says: "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence." Twice this passage says women are to be silent. The point is impossible to miss, and yet those in denominational circles explain this passage away and let women stand in the presence

of men and preach God's word. Thus they cancel what God has said and replace it with their own interpretation. Thus they end up doing the exact opposite of what the Bible says to do. This is done over and over because it is believed that each person can have his own interpretation and still remain right in God's eyes.

It is believed that denominations can develop hundreds of different interpretations of the Bible and that God will accept them all. The Bible says no such thing. In fact the Bible says that worship to God is vain if it follows the doctrines of men. Matthew 15:8-9 says: "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain to they worship me teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." When people develop their own interpretation, they have, in fact, designed their own doctrine. But of course those that desire their own interpretation will explain this away like they do everything else.

The Bible teaches that all men have the duty to understand the Bible alike, not differently. The following verse rejects denominationalism with all of their accompanying and varied interpretations of the scriptures. "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). This passage explicitly teaches the following:

- **"that ye all speak the same thing."** This passage does not allow men to interpret the Bible differently. When each religious group has their own interpretation then all men are not speaking the same thing; which is in direct violation of what the passage requires. This passage teaches that it is possible for men to speak the same thing; therefore it is possible for man to see the Bible alike. If a person disagrees, then he does not teach what this passage teaches. If he does not teach what this passage teaches

then that person is in disagreement with God and therefore wrong. Let's be determined to follow God's word and realize there are not many ways to understand the Bible; there is only one way and that's the way God meant for it to be understood. The Bible is always right and if man does not agree with what the Bible says then he is wrong. As long as man disagrees with the Bible he is in error regardless if the person is a professor, a commentator, a preacher or a television evangelist. Incidentally, the Bible says that there are many people who teach falsely (1 John 4:1).

- **“that there be no divisions among you.”** It is evident that there are divisions that exist among religious people. These denominational divisions are a direct result of different interpretations. The solution to this problem of division is to follow this passage. That means denominational doctrines, creeds and dogmas must be set aside, along with all denominational names. Only one Gospel must be taught and one name must be worn; that is the name “Christian”. There are no denominational names found in the Bible (i.e. Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, etc.). Ephesians 4:1-6 states emphatically that there is only one body (church, Eph. 1:22-23), and only one faith which is the Gospel (Acts 6:7; Romans 1:16; Jude 3).
- **“that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind.”** God forbids having different minds about His instructions. He calls for the abolition of denominational thinking. The same book that says “be perfectly joined together in the same mind” also says that division is a direct result of spiritual immaturity and worldly thinking (1 Corinthians 3:1-3). God requires the same mind on the subjects of worship, salvation, the coming of Christ and so on. There are not dozens of ways to be saved, but only one. There are not two ways to worship (traditional and contemporary), but one; the Bible way. Nonetheless, denominationalists reject this

passage which says we are to have the same mind. If you reject this passage then you put yourself in opposition to God. This is wrong and will not lead one to heaven. Jesus prayed for His disciples to be one; that is to have the same unity that the Son has with the Father (John 17:20-23). It is not hard to comprehend neither His prayer nor His plan (Ephesians 4:1-6). Jesus and His Father have the same mind which is what His disciples must have.

- **“and the in the same judgment.”** Is it not strange that there exists universal agreement among denominational folk that Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt, that Noah built the ark, that David was one of the kings of Israel, and that Jesus was born in Bethlehem and died on a cross outside Jerusalem? This proves we can have the same judgment when it comes to the word of God.

The same one that influenced Adam and Eve is the same one that is still doing his dirty work to change God's word and cause people to be lost (Genesis 3:1-6). The devil wants division, not God. Let us follow the devil no longer, but rather let us drop all man-made doctrines and names and unite upon the one Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the
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**“They Shall Be Turned
Unto Fables”**

“That’s Your Interpretation”

by
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