



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – August 28, 2016

Heart to Heart...

It seems to be one of the top statements when trying to show someone what the Lord speaks in Scripture about certain matters. People come up with all sorts of Bible subjects and when you show them what the Lord speaks there comes a quick response: “*That’s just your interpretation!*” That’s the end of the discussion.

While sitting in my office a lady came in wanting to speak with me about joining their religious movement. Her opening statement was, “I come because Jesus is Lord!” I had to sit and listen to her appeal. After listening to what she offered and wanted from me we began a discussion of Scripture. I spoke some verses to her about salvation and what Jesus spoke about when one is saved. As I read the verses she quickly responded, “*We can all interpret Scripture differently. That’s just your interpretation!*” I took my Bible, handed it to her, asked her to read what it said and tell me the interpretation. She read it, paused, looked at me and shut the Bible while asking, “*Do you believe that? Do you teach that?*” She knew what it said. I responded by kindly saying that you came to me with “Jesus is Lord” and ask me if I believe this and teach this?

Biblical text understanding is determined from context in which it was spoken. When you look at a context & the verses in that context, they tell us what is being spoken and that is the interpretation! It only means one thing. No one is entitled to their own interpretation and there aren’t many interpretations. Some statements might be difficult to understand but if one keeps them in context it is accepted and understood dealing with that context. Peter said some of Paul’s teachings were difficult but “*the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.*” (II Peter 3:15) The untaught and unstable are the ones who distort what is spoken. The distortion of Scripture is destructive to the soul. Scripture doesn’t mean different things to different people! That’s how we got all these different teachings floating around us. That’s not how the Lord had it written. When the words of God were penned the writer by inspiration of the Holy Spirit meant what he said. That means you ask yourself questions when looking at Scripture such as: Who is the writer? Who is he speaking to? What is being discussed? These aren’t impossible questions. They are contextual questions to gain the proper meaning. God’s word was written to be understood and heeded!

When someone says, "*That's just your interpretation!*" that one admits to ignoring the word of God. Too many times people are caught in their own misdirection of what God wants and rather than being humble and honest they deflect the Scriptures so they can continue in their own personal belief even if it's wrong. Too many pick and choose what they want to believe which has led to the many divisions and suspicions. Just simply be honest and humble with Scripture.

When we are addressed in our faith from Scripture and it hits us how that is not what we have been following, don't dismiss it thinking you can interpret it a different way. There is only one interpretation and being honest as a child of God you must accept the Scripture as the word reveals it in context. That means you must change your view so your faith can grow. There can be many applications but the interpretation, if kept in context, means only one thing without adding anything else! Think about it!!!

Brent