

UNDERSTANDING

Ed Smithson

“Do you understand?” is a question often asked. The reason being that without understanding it is impossible to communicate or get anything done.

The lack of understanding is often used in scripture in both Old and New Testaments. God, through Jeremiah said, “For my people are foolish, they know me not; they are sottish children, and they have no understanding; they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.” (Jer. 4:22)

But they were not the only ones. The Jews in the New Testament had the prophets to study and should have understood much of what Jesus was about. They did not study. They did not perceive what they were told and they listened to the traditions of the fathers that was a substitute for God’s word.

Jesus told them, “For this people’s heart is waxed gross, And their ears are dull of hearing, And their eyes they have closed; Lest haply they should perceive with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And should turn again, And I should heal them.” (Matt.13:15)

He further said, “that seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest haply they should turn again, and it should be forgiven them.” (Mark 4:12)

Today we have a lot more information than those who lived in the Old Testament times and New Testament times, yet we still have a problem with understanding because of preconceived ideas. We do not study the scriptures well enough. Studying without an open mind can bring this about.

Many of the Jews, as well as the apostles, heard what Jesus said through the filter of the Law and Jewish tradition. Sometimes people today read or listen to the word of God through the filter of denominationalism. In other words, what they have been taught earlier in life, causes preconceived ideas that interfere with understanding.

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Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:



The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

March 4, 2018

church of Christ at Alisal

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Paul McCollum, preacher
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To Which Church Do YOU Belong?

DATE	PLACE	BUILDER	NAME
33 A.D.	Jerusalem	Jesus Christ	Church of Christ
606 A.D.	Rome	Boniface III	Roman Catholic
1520 A.D.	Germany	Martin Luther	Lutheran
1534 A.D.	England	Henry VIII	Episcopalian
1536 A.D.	Switzerland	John Calvin	Presbyterian
1550 A.D.	Holland	Robert Brown	Congregational
1607 A.D.	England	John Smyth	Baptist
1739 A.D.	America	John Wesley	Methodist
1830 A.D.	America	Joseph Smith	Mormon
1830 A.D.	America	William Miller	7th Day Adventist
1866 A.D.	America	Mary Baker Eddy	Christian Science
1872 A.D.	America	Charles Russell	Jehovah Witnesses
1871 A.D.	America	Stephen Munford	Church of God

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (John 1:1-5)

MEETING UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

Listen on AM Radio 880 KKMC in Salinas, California
2nd Friday of each month @ 1:30 pm

Bible Classes..... 9:00 A.M.
Assemblies..... 10:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.

<http://churchofchristalisal.com/>

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class, Singing, & Prayer..... 6:30 P.M.

Welcome

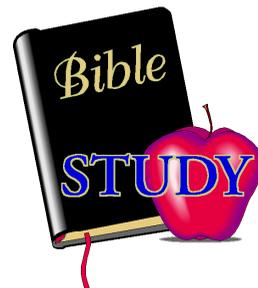
Good Morning Brothers and Sisters!



This Week's Sermon's

A.M. - Believing "Some" of the Bible

P.M. - When Religion Has
No Authority - #4



I Know What Love Is...

Barry Haynes

You may have seen the recent commercial by the Ad Council that tells us love has no limits. It shows people behind an x-ray screen embracing only showing their skeletal outlines. The people emerge from the behind to reveal they are a same sex couple, to a cheering crowd. The scene is redone with people of different races, religions and ages. Each one is accompanied by the text; love has no gender, love has no race, love has no disability, love has no religion, love has no labels. The ad campaign claims to combat what is seen as bias in our world today.

It got me to thinking about how the world is trying to redefine love. We hear the argument in our world to today, "How a person can be against two people who love one another? To try to put limits on love is wrong."

But how does the Bible label love?

"Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1st Corinthians 13:4-7).

Some things stick out to me in this passage are in conflict with the world's definition of love. The world says you should cheer when someone is in sin, but Biblical love does not rejoice in unrighteousness. The world says love can act anyway it wants, but Biblical love never acts unbecomingly. The world says you should be proud of your lifestyle, but Biblical love does not brag. The world says you are offensive and should be shunned if you don't accept what it accepts, but Biblical love does not take into account a wrong suffered. The world says you should accept any belief no matter if it is valid or not, but Biblical love rejoices with truth.

There is a saying, "He who controls the language, controls the masses." When it comes to love, who makes the definition, God, who is love, or the world who does not know him?

Go Into All the World and Live a Good, Moral Life?

Jason Hilburn

Why is it that some Christians seem to believe that their only responsibility in reaching the lost is to live a pure lifestyle before them? Will alien sinners become Christians by simply observing that Christians refrain from things like profanity, fornication, and drugs? Will simply being kind to others convert the lost? Certainly, the Christian's influence must not be minimized (Matt. 5:13-16); and yes, Christians are to live holy lives and be kind to others (1 Pet. 1:15-16; Matt. 5:38-48); but is that all it takes to convert the lost?

Dear reader, there are many others in this world besides Christians who are kind to others. There can even be atheists who choose to be kind to their fellow man. There are other religions besides Christianity which emphasize humility, kindness, sobriety, modest dress, and other forms of morality. What makes Christianity different, and how will the lost learn those differences?

Of course, the answer is that Christians must expose the lost to the words of the Bible! True faith does not come from seeing someone live a good, moral life— faith comes from hearing the Word of God! (Rom. 10:17). If the Seed (God's Word) is not planted, the fruit (a Christian) will never be produced (Luke 8:11-15). The Great Commission does not teach Christians to simply go out and live in an upright way—Christians are specifically told to teach, baptize, and teach some more (Matt. 28:19-20). Philip had to "open his mouth" to convert the Ethiopian (Acts 8:35). If we will not open our mouths and "preach Jesus" like Philip did, will anyone ever ask what the Ethiopian asked? "... what doth hinder me to be baptized?" (Acts 8:36).

*Alisal will host the Second Saturday Breakfast this coming
Saturday Morning - 8:30 - Please invite your friends!*

Announcements

1. Brother Charles will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
~ On the Prayer list

Be prepared for our regular Bible class this coming Wednesday at 6:30 PM.

Kerry & Rosemarie Johnson - for safe trip going and coming home.

Charles Barry - for strength to carry on his good work.

Norma Decker - relief from her pain and COPD.

Michael White - for his education and helping others as he serves his time.

The church at Alisal - for growth, sowing the Word, and results from our Maya theater Advertisement.

Have a blessed week!

