

Article Title— “Why is the Bible so Hard to Understand?”

Article Category— “Practical Christianity”

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It’s a reasonable question, you know: Why would God have given us His written Word in a form that is often so hard for the vast majority of us who’re NOT professional christians to understand? Might Hosea 4:6 yield the best answer? God “...is a rewarder of them that diligently (as opposed to *passively*) seek him?”

Nehemiah 8:1-9 describes something that happened somewhere between 444 and 430 BC that I think most Believers, today, would not stand for: Ezra, the priest, stood on a makeshift open-air wooden platform in front of the people of Judah (not Israel) who still lingered in Persian exile, having previously been in Babylonian captivity. Ezra’s scribe and several of the Levites stood around him and the platform.

To open that event, Ezra said some really nice things<sup>1</sup> about our Heavenly Father. The people responded with a simple “Amen” and bowed their faces to the ground and worshipped<sup>2</sup>. It was a notably solemn occasion. They stood to their feet when Ezra opened the book of the Law. The people who had the intellectual capacity to understand stood in that street and listened attentively to Ezra’s reading from early morning until midday. Several of the Levites mingled with the crowd to answer questions and help the people understand what was written.

<sup>1</sup>Saying nice things about a person is called “praising” that person. The visible church has given it a very different meaning:

[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3\\_bb9d53088a454d10ad9b78be31c2d0dd.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3_bb9d53088a454d10ad9b78be31c2d0dd.pdf).

Note: The individual and corporate *singing* of praises to God, however, is clearly scriptural, too—but there is no mention of that on this particular occasion.

<sup>2</sup>Their worshiping was quite a different thing from the *worshiptainment* that has gained enormous popularity within today’s visible church...for filling the bleachers with folk who’ve acquired appetites for “milk:”

[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3\\_f45eb8a0b3dd435ea0c8f67b4e34c736.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3_f45eb8a0b3dd435ea0c8f67b4e34c736.pdf).

Might Isaiah’s answer to our question also be pivotal? “Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? [them that are] weaned from the milk, [and] drawn from the breasts.” —Isaiah 28:9

Paul addressed it at 1 Corinthians 3:2— “I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able [to bear it], neither yet now are ye able.” He addressed it again at Hebrews 5:12,13— “...ye have need that one teach you again which [be] the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe...”

From the Old Testament, there is also this: “My people are destroyed for lack of [sincerity?] [prayer?] [righteousness?] [worship?] [holiness?] [hyperspirituality?] [getting “truly ‘saved’?”] [believing “what ‘we’ believe?”] [regular church attendance?] [faith?] KNOWLEDGE...” —Hosea 4:6

There are multiple other scriptures throughout the Old Testament to confirm that. Here are a few of the memorable ones, just from the book of Proverbs—

- > “How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity?...and fools hate knowledge?” —Proverbs 1:22
- > “...with all thy getting get understanding.” —Proverbs 4:7
- > “Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.” —Proverbs 8:10
- > “Wise [men] lay up knowledge...” —Proverbs 10:14
- > “...through knowledge shall the just be delivered.” —Proverbs 11:9
- > “Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge...” —Proverbs 12:1
- > “The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.” —Proverbs 14:18
- > “The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.” —Proverbs 15:14
- > “The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.” —Proverbs 18:15
- > “Cease, my son, to hear the instruction [that causeth] to err from the words of knowledge.” —Proverbs 19:27  
—In what ways might the message, here, apply to those who rely on the purely sectarian bias that is typically available to them “in church?”
- > “Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.” —Proverbs 23:12
- > “So [shall] the knowledge of wisdom [be] unto thy soul: when thou hast found [it], then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.” —Proverbs 24:14

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.

I knew what my denomination believed and that’s what I taught.

Yes, I should’ve checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn’t I do that? Well, maybe I didn’t do that for the same reason that you haven’t really checked out what your denomination teaches.

“In religion and politics, people’s beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination.” —Samuel Clemens



I am personally convinced that the problem lies in the widespread misinterpretation of Jesus' words at Mark 10:15 and Luke 18:17— "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." That terribly misguided mindset was also present among 1st-Century church folk. Paul did his best to correct it: "Brethren, be NOT children in understanding...but in understanding be men." —1 Corinthians 14:20

Peter wrote about it, too: "As also in all [his (i.e.: Paul's)] epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as [they do] also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction." —2 Peter 3:16

Jesus said it like this: "Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand...But blessed [are] your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear." —Matthew 13:13,16

With this, you may now understand that the scriptures speak much more harshly than I would ever dare to speak about the pervasive childish propensity to approach Christianity as if only to achieve "The Warm Fuzzies." The visible church, you may also know, specializes in catering to that appetite. Churchgoers have typically come to think they've hired denominational *experts* and preachers to do their studying, critical thinking and "the ministry" for them. The bleachers are now FULL of spectators who watch professional "ministry" players who get paid to play—and there are even paid cheerleaders.

Several scriptures command us to put on the MIND of Christ. Not even one scripture tells us to put on His HEART. Some of my readers, having heard it from me more than a few times, find that pretty harsh. But it is true and you can take it to the bank. The critical pertinent fact is that there is just one scripture in all of the Bible that serves to instruct us on how to gain God's personal approval. It is 2 Timothy 2:15.

Want meat? Because God will always have a remnant, there may be a few churches that offer a full menu, but I cannot name one of them, personally. Yes; I know: Everyone is inclined to think, "Well, MY church is certainly one of them!" I think the Stockholm Syndrome is largely responsible for that default response.


Remember, please, that the message of Romans 12:2 is "Change the way you think!" That is not a thing to pray about, but a something to **do**.

Here's a critical heads-up for you, though: God has clearly CHOSEN not to give us on a silver platter all the marvelous knowledge and understanding that He wants us to gain. You just can't gain it overnight. It takes time and diligence. If your path to knowledge and understanding is active (not passive) you'll still be learning until the day you die. No genuine seeker of Truth will ever get it all within a lifetime. It is important to interact regularly with others who have progressed at least a little bit further than you in the acquisition of knowledge and understanding...to learn from them. The flip side of that is that you must also share what you're learning with others who may not have acquired quite as much of it as you have. Per Jesus' parable of the talents/money at Matthew 25, if you don't do that, you'll lose it. (Ever hear about that from a pulpit?)

For those who will come to desire a credible resource for study-friendly scriptural meat, we're here for you. Just stay in touch with us while your learning: <https://www.link1.info/online-study>. You should know that we're determined to continue our learning too:


- ✓ From those who're inclined to always agree with us, we learn not much. From those who rationally explain why they disagree, we learn volumes.

Godspeed to our readers who will make the decision to start on their respective quests for God's personal approval today, via the diligent pursuit of knowledge and understanding. If you're to experience "The Warm Fuzzies" let them come from that pursuit instead of from the hyperspiritual folly that is globally pervasive among folk who profess Christianity.

—T. C. Newsome 

PS: Comments? Questions? Scriptural rebuttals? They're all welcome! <https://www.link1.info/contact-us>.

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