

“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 that I have said to you.”

John 14:26 ESV

Did you know that all the controversy surrounding the Bible that we can observe today in our world, has been predicted and explained within the Bible itself?

THE BIBLE EXPLAINS WHY MANY PEOPLE DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT, AND WHY OTHERS DO.

There are two questions that we are going to ask today..

Question #1 - Why don't people understand the Bible?

I'll give you 3 reasons from the Bible.

(Reason #1) - Satan is hard at work to blind people to the truth, keeping people in unbelief. **2 Corinthians 4:4; Genesis 3:1**

Satan is called the god of this world. According to 2 Corinthians 4, he is on a mission to keep the gospel veiled - to hide the true gospel from people. His mission is to blind the minds of unbelievers, preventing them from understanding the truth of Jesus.

In Genesis 3 we find Satan, the adversary of God, crafty as he is, approaching the woman. What does he first say to her? Did God actually say? Did God really say that?

(Reason #2) - An unbeliever does not have the Holy Spirit within him/her to provide an understanding of the Bible. **1 Corinthians 2:14**

The Bible classifies people today essentially into two major categories - believers and unbelievers.

The natural man is the unregenerate person - the unbeliever. The Bible says that he does not accept the things of the Spirit of God. In fact, they are foolishness to that person, and he can't understand the things that have been given to us by God. He can't understand the Bible which has been given to us by God.

The unregenerate person lacks the internal conviction that he must place his faith in the Savior of the Bible (Jesus) or else he will eternally be under God's judgment. Many people know the Bible, but not everyone who knows it understands salvation. That is a work only the Holy Spirit can do within a person's soul.

(Reason #3) - A believer with a carnal lifestyle will not grow deep in an understanding of the Bible. **1 Corinthians 3:1-4; Hebrews 5:11-14**

Paul called out the Corinthians, essentially saying: I have to speak to you like you are baby Christians, infants in the faith, instead of mature knowledgeable Christians, because you are fleshly.

If you are a Christian, and your lifestyle is representative of an unregenerate person, then you are hindering your own ability to learn the deep things of God.

Hebrews 5 echos the same thing. If you want to grow deep in your understanding of the Bible, the first step is putting into practice the things you do understand.

Question #2 - Why do people understand the Bible?

I'll give you 3 reasons from the Bible.

(Reason #1) - God Himself opens the eyes and hearts of the blind, thwarting Satan's attempts to keep people in unbelief. **Acts 16:14; Matthew 16:17**

God can thwart any plan or scheme of Satan. Our natural bent as a fallen and sinful race of humanity is to reject the things of God. So naturally, we should follow after the course of this world in misunderstanding the Bible, but according to the Bible, there are many people in this world who God has chosen to open their hearts to understand His Word and accurately apply it in regards to salvation.

In Acts 16, Lydia's heart was opened up to hear and comprehend the preaching of the Word of God by Paul. Who opened her heart? It was the Lord. Who is credited for allowing her to pay attention to the preaching of the gospel? The Lord.

In Matthew 16:17, Jesus asked a question to His disciples: "Who do you say that I am?" Peter gave the right answer: "You are the Christ. The Son of the living God." I want you to notice how Jesus responded to Peter. According to Jesus, Peter didn't come up with this understanding on his own. God the Father in heaven gave Peter this understanding.

To the ones whom God has selected, He reveals to a person's soul just exactly who Jesus is. It is those people, whom God has intervened in their life, that understand with accuracy the Bible itself.

(Reason #2) - Upon faith in Jesus, a believer now has the Holy Spirit within him/her as the resident teacher. **Ephesians 1:13; John 14:26**

If you have believed in Jesus for eternal life, then you need to realize that residing in you is God the Holy Spirit. You have within you the Spirit of the Lord. He is called the helper. One of His roles is to teach you truth and allow you mind to remember, comprehend, and apply God's Word.

If you're a Christian, don't think that a deep understanding of the Bible is beyond your reach.

The question is not: "Do I have what it takes?" If you have God's Spirit in you, then you do have what it takes. The question is: "do I want to go deep in my understanding of the only book that really matters in eternity."

(Reason #3) - A believer with a God-honoring lifestyle will grow deep in an understanding of the Bible. **Hebrews 5:14; 2 Peter 3:18**

Do you want to grow deep in an understanding of the Bible? Put it into practice. You have to live a God-honoring lifestyle.

2 Peter 3:18 says grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. How do you do that? You do as Peter wrote just a few sentences before: Be diligent to be found by the Lord without spot or blemish and be at peace, patiently waiting for God to fulfill the promises of His Word.

"Dusty Bibles always lead to dirty lives." Howard Hendricks

"Either you are in the word and the Word is conforming you to the image of Jesus Christ, or you are in the world and the world is squeezing you into its mold." Howard Hendricks

"A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't." - Charles Spurgeon

