

Come let us Grow Together: Get familiar with the Letter not a Verse of the Letter

Come let us Grow Together is a weekly series that deals with the many topical categories that exist within the Word of God. The purpose of this series is to grow in wisdom, knowledge, and understanding in things pertaining to God.

When I speak of the Letter, I am speaking of Epistles written to the Churches or to the various people they were written to. I am not referring to the Mosaic Law.

The many mistakes made by people concerning the Word of God is directly tied to not applying how the Word of God is set up for one to learn doctrine.

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. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: (Isa 28:9-10 KJV)

For one to gain doctrinal understanding and knowledge, one must do so by looking from book to book, epistle to epistle, and from verse to verse. Gaining this understanding line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.

Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. (Psa 119:104, 4, 15 KJV)

Many doctrines and personal belief systems that people cling to are based upon selecting certain verses of scriptures and applying only those scriptures. And not only so, many times these scriptures ignore what was spoken elsewhere in the same letter (epistle). For example:

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Rm 10:9, 13 KJV)

But what about what the Apostle Paul wrote just four chapters earlier concerning baptism? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: (Rm 6:3-5 KJV)

Does this mean we can disregard what the Apostle wrote earlier in his letter? Not to mention what is written elsewhere in other books concerning these topics.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (2 Tim 3:16 KJV)

It's time to Get familiar with the Letter not a Verse of the Letter!!

But what about, "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling?" (Phil 2:12c KJV)
Again, It's time to Get familiar with the Letter not a Verse of the Letter!! What did it say elsewhere in this letter?

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. (Phil 1:3-7 KJV)

Here we learn about the people he is speaking to when he said, "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling". He commends them for their "fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now." He even speaks that he has them, "in the defence and confirmation of the gospel". So these people were keeping the Word that he taught to them.

"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God. (Phil 1:9-11 KJV)

So when the Apostle Paul spoke to the Philippians to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" he was speaking to people that had already proved that they were following his precepts. Furthermore only part of the scripture is quoted when we here people say "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling". What does the whole verse say?

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Phil 2:12 (KJV)

You can tell obedient people to work out their own salvation with fear and trembling because they have already proven themselves obedient.

Let us therefore Get familiar with the Letter not a Verse of the Letter and learn sound doctrine.