

SCRIPTURE'S OWN BASIC GROUND RULES FOR BIBLE STUDY

SO WE WON'T BE DECEIVED

Grateful Soldiers of the Cross

According to Scripture, these are the principles which should guide and protect everyone in their study of the Scriptures. This is because there are so many warnings in Scripture about “false teachers” and “deceivers” “that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect,” Matthew 24:24.

1. All “Scripture” is inspired by God as it was given in the original languages of the Bible.

Most significantly, not only in Christ’s day, but in the first thirty years of the Christian Church, the term, “the Scriptures” only referred to the writings of the Old Testament called the Tanach by the Jews. This is because the New Testament Scriptures did not even exist until decades after the New Testament Church had been established. Thus, as late as A.D. 67, Paul would instruct Timothy regarding “the holy Scriptures”:

2Ti 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;

2Ti 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures [*the original Hebrew Scriptures*], which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

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

2Ti 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Mar 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

Luk 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Rom 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime [*in Old Testament times*] were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Rom 16:26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets [*in Old Testament times*], according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

Luk 24:25 Then he [*Christ*] said unto them [*his disciples after his resurrection*], O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets [*in Old Testament times*] have spoken:

Therefore, in mercy to the human race, Jehovah still has these especially wicked demons or evil “spirits” in prison, in the netherworld in the center of this earth until, according to Revelation 16:13-14, they will again be released during the tribulation, to do their final work of deception. Thus, it was absolutely **not** to these “spirits in prison,” while Christ was dead in the grave, that Christ went to preach the gospel at all. Instead, until his resurrection, he was unconscious in the grave.

Therefore, because these especially fierce demons were not present to witness the death or resurrection of Christ, the moment that Christ was resurrected, “when it was yet dark,” John 20:1, the very first thing that Christ personally did was to make a quick visit to his fiercest enemies in the netherworld. Why? It was to totally demoralize his worst enemies and **proclaim** and **announce** his complete triumph and irreversible victory over them.

How do we know this meaning is true? The Greek word which has been translated as “preached” is a false translation in this passage and context. This is because this Greek word has **not one** but **at least two very different meanings**. It can be translated as “preached” as in to “preach” the “divine truth” of the gospel—if a person is indeed preaching the gospel. Yet, it can simply, equally and just as correctly be translated as to **“herald (as a public crier)”**, or to simply **announce** or **“proclaim”** that a certain important event has taken place. Therefore the **very first Greek definition** of this word is “to herald (as a public *crier*).”

G2784 κηρύσσω *kērussō kay-roos'-so*

Of uncertain affinity; to **herald (as a public crier)**, especially divine truth (the gospel):
- preach (-er), **proclaim**, publish.

Therefore, the King James translation of this passage is **wrong** as it directly contradicts Jude 1:6, and especially many other passages regarding death in the Old Testament such as Ecclesiastes 9:5, Ecclesiastes 12:7, Psalm 146:4 and even Acts 2:29.

Therefore, even though the Mormons claim to be God’s only true church on earth, have millions of members, have many thousands of very dedicated friendly missionaries, who are very nicely dressed, who pass out the most beautiful literature, and belong to a massive church organizational structure, Mormons are nevertheless a total deception to those who accept and believe their own falsely translated and interpreted literature.

Thus **everything** Mormons teach is suspect—**even though they do teach some truth**. Satan never tries to catch fish with a bear hook! Error must first be mixed with truth in order to make it credible **to those who are not the most diligent Bible students**. Therefore, **none** of the above very appealing outward signs should ever be used as “proof” that a certain person or organization belongs to or is part of Jehovah’s true kingdom or church on earth. These outward “signs” may indicate just the opposite.

Therefore, this example of how the Mormons have built an entire religious organization upon some falsely translated texts, should be a warning to all searchers for truth. Mormons are not alone in this form of deception. The above **vital Scriptural exposure**, of the very false Mormon religion, **is simply a typical example** of what it means to “**study**” the Scriptures so

one will not be deceived by very dedicated, earnest, yet thoroughly deceived false prophets, theologians and teachers. As just witnessed, one simply needs to look up the original meanings of the original Biblical languages and “compare” “Scripture with Scripture,” and “precept with precept,” “here a little and there a little,” Isaiah 28:10, which is so easy to do as “the spirit” “will guide you into all truth,” John 16:13. By using this simple method of study, it is easy to demonstrate that, tragically, there are hundreds of falsely translated and interpreted texts upon which hundreds of false denominations are founded. Therefore...

2. True believers must search and study all the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments for themselves, so they will not be deceived.

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Joh 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Act 17:11 These [*believers in Berea*] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

3. The Scriptures are of no private interpretation.

2Pe 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shined in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

2Pe 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

2Pe 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time [*Old Testament times*] by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy ^{Ghost} Spirit.

4. True believers must study the Scriptures exactly how they say they should be studied.

1Thessalonians 5:17 admonishes us to “Pray without ceasing.” Therefore the Scriptures should never be studied without prayer because “spiritual things” “are spiritually discerned,” 1Corinthians 2:13-14. In addition to this rule there are seven specific passages which instruct us how to actually study, interpret, and thus correctly learn the Scriptures so we will not be deceived.

First, the Scriptures are to be continually read to have a thorough knowledge of them:

Luk 4:16 And he [*Jesus*] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

Second, the Scriptures are to be rightly divided as to the correct original meaning and intent of the original words:

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing**^{G3718} the word of truth.

G3718 ὀρθοτομέω orthotomeō *or-thot-om-eh'-o*

From a compound of G3717 and the base of G5114; to **make a straight cut**, that is, (figuratively) to **dissect (expound) correctly** (the divine message): - **rightly divide**.

Third, “the Scriptures,” especially as they are defined by Isaiah for the last days, are to be studied by placing precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, and there a little as the Scriptures of the entire Bible are intended to interpret themselves.

Isa 28:9 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.

Isa 28:10 For **precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:**

Isa 28:11 For with **stammering lips** [*of how God “speaks” not “once,” but “twice,”*] and another tongue [*the Bible code languages*] will he speak to this people.

Isa 28:12 To whom he said, *This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.*

Isa 28:13 But the word of the LORD was unto them **precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little;** that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

Fourth, spiritual things are to be **compared** with spiritual things as the Scriptures are to be permitted to explain and teach themselves. This is especially true for how the writings of the New Testament are to be compared to the writings of the Old Testament to be correctly understood for: “...**if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.** Isaiah 8:20:

1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that **we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.**

1Co 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy ^{Ghest} Spirit teacheth; **comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because **they are spiritually discerned.**

Fifth, we are to study the Scriptures in light of the fact that “all” of the events of sacred history recorded in Scripture are to be somehow **typologically** repeated in our day:

Ecc 3:15 **That which hath been is now;** and **that which is to be hath already been;** and God **requireth** that which is past [*“to happen again” is the intent of the Hebrew idiom*].

Ecc 1:9 **The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be;** and that which is done *is* that which shall be done: [*So that the time will come that people will say*] and **there is no new thing under the sun.** [*Likewise, and in light of this principle, the time is coming when people will ask:*]

Ecc 1:10 **Is there any thing** whereof it may be said, See, this is new? **it hath been already of old time,** which was before us. [*But the problem that God's people have is that:*]

Ecc 1:11 *There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after.*

1Co 10:11 Now **all** [meaning 100%] these things happened unto them [God's people in Bible times] for ensamples [the Greek word means "types"]: and they are written for our admonition, **upon whom the ends of the world are come.**

1Co 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth **take heed lest he fall** [if one doesn't truly understand how sacred history is being repeated in our day].

Sixth, we are to personally prove or disprove everything we hear about the Scriptures and only "hold fast" to that which agrees with all other Scripture:

1Th 5:21 **Prove all things** [including every translation and interpretation of every single word in Scripture]; hold fast that which is good.

Act 17:11 These [believers in Berea] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched** the scriptures daily, **whether those things were so.**

Seventh, And how are we to prove all things, or all teaching? It is by the foundational truths of the Scriptures, especially in the Old Testament.

Isa 8:20 **To the law and to the testimony** [The writers of the Old Testament Torah and or Tanach]: **if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.**

It is thus that Paul, in the time of the apostolic church instructed Timothy "to continue thou in "the holy Scriptures" which he had "learned" "from a child," when the New Testament had not yet been written. It is thus that Paul teaches that "All scripture is given by **inspiration of God**, and **is profitable for doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness":

2Ti 3:14 But **continue thou in the things which thou hast learned** and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;

2Ti 3:15 And that **from a child** thou hast known **the holy scriptures** [a reference to what is today called the Old Testament], which are able to make thee **wise unto salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2Ti 3:16 **All scripture** is given by **inspiration of God**, and **is profitable for doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2Ti 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

2Pe 3:15 And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

2Pe 3:16 As also in all *his* 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.**

2Pe 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, **beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked,** fall from your own steadfastness.

Act 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall **grievous wolves** enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Tit 1:9 **Holding fast the faithful word** as he hath been taught, that he may be able by **sound doctrine** both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Tit 1:10 For **there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers,** specially they of the circumcision:

Tit 1:11 Whose mouths must be stopped, **who subvert whole houses,** teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

Tit 1:12 One of themselves, *even* a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians *are* always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

Tit 1:13 **This witness is true.** Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

Tit 1:14 **Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.**

2Ti 2:15 **Study** to shew **thyself** approved unto God [*and not unto church creeds, pastors, or theologians*], **a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

2Ti 2:16 But **shun profane and vain babblings;** for **they will increase unto more ungodliness** [*permitting more and more sin and false teachings into the church*].

2Ti 2:17 And **their word** [*especially false translation*] **will eat as doth a canker:** of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

Rev 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, **If any man shall add unto these things,** God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

Rev 22:19 And **if any man shall take away from the words of the book** of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

Again, it is these principles which should guide and can protect everyone in their study of the Scriptures.

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