

Some Commonly Misinterpreted/Misapplied Scriptures

Sunday PM 06/23/19

Introduction:

"A little bit of knowledge can be dangerous." Such can be said about inadequate Bible knowledge or Bible knowledge that is skewed, *2 Peter 2.22*. People often misquote scriptures or take them out of context, *2 Peter 3.16*. We want to look at some commonly misinterpreted or misapplied scriptures.

I) *Romans 14.23*

A) Common idea is to equate the word "faith" in this passage to the word of God

1. Faith can refer to that which has been revealed, *Romans 10.17; 2 Corinthians 5.7*
2. It is also true that to add to or subtract from the word of God is sin, *2 John 9*
 - a. Recently church in Oklahoma City added instrumental music in its worship. They acknowledged the lack of Bible authority but felt it to be proper.
 - b. To go beyond or subtract from the word of God is to sin.

B) However, in *Romans 14.23* the word faith is dealing with one's conscience.

1. *Romans 13* we are to obey the laws of the government "for conscience sake" *verse 5*.

2. Violating one's conscience is sin, *Romans 14.1-5*
3. This is not to say that one's conscience is the final word, for one's conscience can be wrong, *Acts 23.1*
4. The conscience must be properly trained and then followed.

II) **1 Thessalonians 5.22 "shun the appearance of evil"**

A) Common idea- to be around or associated with evil is wrong no matter the circumstances

1. Regena's grandmother would not allow dice in her house, for dice have been used in gambling. In order to play games, they had to use spin wheels.
 - a. Going to movies is wrong because some movies show nudity, violence, or profanity.
 - b. The same could be said for television.
2. This interpretation would require us to reframe from any place or activity that someone might associate with evil.

B) Different translations

1. Avoid every kind of evil, NIV
2. Abstain from every form of evil, NASV, NKJV
3. There is a difference from some that might appear to be evil that which actually is evil.
 - a. Examples: Jesus healed on the Sabbath, He ate with sinners and tax collectors. The Jews equated such with evil.
 - b. We are not to clothe ourselves in evil.

III) **2 Corinthians 11.3 the simplicity of the Gospel**

A) **Common idea - the Bible is so simple it cannot be misunderstood**

1. Parts of the Bible are very simple.
2. The Bible was written so as to be understood, *Ephesians 5.17*
3. But it does require time and effort, we must study and rightly divide the word of God, *2 Timothy 2.15*

B) **In this passage the word simple means single (haplotēs-single mindedness, whole-heartedness); this in contrast to double**

1. Eve was given a single message; do not eat the forbidden fruit. She started to doubt the message and gave place for a second message, eat and you will be like God.
2. We have but one Gospel, one Savior, one God, one Holy Spirit, and one Bible. We should not listen to any other message but what has been given to us. We should serve with singleness of heart.

IV) **Romans 16.17 the form of doctrine**

A) **Common idea - the doctrine is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.**

1. Therefore people equate the form of doctrine to baptism. It is true that earlier in *Romans 6* Paul speaks of being baptized into Christ.
2. Problem is the emphasis is on getting people baptized but not changed.

B) Fact- Paul is speaking of everything they had received.

1. The words pattern, mold, image, or blue print points out the way the Bible teaches us.
 - a. Direct command, approved example, necessary inference.
 - b. We look at different passages to get the complete picture.
2. The Gospel includes the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, *1 Corinthians 15.1-3*
3. Includes all else revealed to us by the Holy Spirit, through the Apostles. We are to obey all of it. *Romans 6.1-2, 4, 12, 17*
 - a. Obedience is being molded by the doctrine
 - b. Baptism is the beginning of this new life but we must build on it, *Luke 14.28ff*
4. Paul is telling them reframe from sin or they will become slaves of sin.

V) 1John 3.9

A) Common idea - once a child of God, a person cannot sin so as to be lost

1. God will not recognize such sin. He sees only the righteousness of Christ (Imputed Righteousness)
2. Practical sin vs. Positionary sin
3. Or else one is not really a child of God and was not before they sinned

B) Fact - NASV "can not practice sin"

1. 9No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. NIV
2. 9No one who is (A)born of God (B)practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. NASV
3. 9 Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life[a] is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God. NKJV
 - a. Cannot teach that it is impossible for a Christian to sin, *1 John 1.7*
 - b. A Christian can sin but will not practice sin if they are abiding in the word of God. We do not have to sin, *1 John 2.1*.
4. One is born of God by their obedience to the word.

Conclusion:

We must always seek to understand what the Bible says. Sometimes we may believe some thing that is not so because we want to or because we have not studied it for ourselves. Let us have honest and pure hearts, seeking the truth.