

YOU CAN UNDERSTAND (GOD'S WORD)

TEXT: **EPHESIANS 5:10-17**

17 Therefore do not be unwise, **but understand what the will of the Lord is.**

WHY THIS SUBJECT?

1. SOME DON'T THINK YOU CAN UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD - TOO COMPLICATED
2. TOO MUCH OF A DEPENDENCE ON OTHERS TO EXPLAIN THE BIBLE
(SPEND MORE TIME READING WORKS OF MEN – **Don't waste your time**)
(**Psalm 19** describes how precious God's word is)
3. IT IS TYPICALLY APPROACHED AS A DIFFERENT BOOK – IT IS IN A SENSE BUT **NEEDS TO BE APPROACHED** LIKE ANY OTHER BOOK THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU

LET'S TAKE A DEEPER LOOK AT THIS PASSAGE

EPHESIANS 5:10-17

(Apostle Paul writing to instruct the church in Ephesus)

1. Personal Unity – Behavior
2. Doctrinal Unity – Need to Believe the same
3. Functional Unity - How we are to behave as a group

10 **proving** (finding out) **what is acceptable to the Lord.**

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light...

14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

15 See then that you walk circumspectly (live carefully), not as fools but as wise,

16 redeeming (making the most) the time, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be unwise, **but understand what the will of the Lord is.**

... its NOT the HS doing it for us

Paul is writing Christians Instructing & Commanding:

1. Find out what is Acceptable to God & Prove it - **vs. 10**
2. Expected to Understand what the will of the Lord is – **vs. 17**

HOW ARE WE TO DO THAT? – must decide that we want to understand

TEXT SUGGESTS A COUPLE OF THINGS

EPHESIANS 5:15-16

15 See then that you walk circumspectly (live carefully), not as fools but as wise,

16 redeeming (making the most) the time, because the days are evil.

Live Carefully & Making the Most of our Time

– HOW DO WE DO THAT?

NEED TO THINK ABOUT OUR LIVES...its NOT the HS doing it for us.

ACCORDING TO WHAT? **EPHESIANS 5:10** by **what is acceptable to the Lord**

HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO THAT?

Ephesians 3:3-4

3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,
4 by which, when you read, **you may understand** my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

1 Timothy 4:13 & 15

13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

SUGGESTS COMMITMENT**2 Timothy 2:15**

15 Be diligent (study – KJV) to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

SUGGESTS WE NEED TO GIVE OUR TIME TO STUDY GOD'S WORD
TO SEE WHAT GOD WANTS

EPHESIANS 5:10

10 proving (finding out) what is acceptable to the Lord.

WHY COMMIT?**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and **is profitable** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

LAST LESSON WAS ON BEING "GIVEN TO READING"

1 TIMOTHY 4:16

16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

BEING GIVEN TO READING WAS CONNECTED WITH SALVATION

LET'S SUMMARIZE WHAT WE NEED TO DO:

1. Make a serious commitment to Read & Study Scripture our Bible
so we KNOW WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO GOD

WHAT ELSE DOES GOD SAY?

1 Timothy 4:15

15 **Meditate** (or to think about or reflect on) on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

1 John 3:10...Whoever does not **practice righteousness** is not of God...

WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS & EVEN MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD SO WE CAN
LEARN TO PRACTICE THEM

APPLICATION

Some read by skimming or very little where they aren't Comprehending or Understanding
VS.

How do we need to Read the Bible:

Like Reading an important Book where:

1. Understand the immediate & extended context
2. Reading & understanding so you could explain it to someone else
3. Asking the question, Am I receiving the message as it was intended?
4. Is what I am understanding harmonize with what the rest of the bible says?
(if you answer no, then your understanding is wrong)
5. Am I reading it with an Open Mind & heart and NOT a closed one with preconceived notions?

Luke 8:11-15 (parable of the soils – different types of hearts)

11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

15 But the ones that fell on the good ground **are those who**, having heard the word with a noble (fair-minded) **and good heart**, keep it (the word of God) and bear fruit with patience.

We need to have a good and honest heart to do that

Romans 15:4 For whatever **things were written** before were written for our learning, that we through the **patience and comfort** of the Scriptures might have hope.

It's a deep book

NOT ALWAYS GOING TO UNDERSTAND IMMEDIATELY but w Study & Time will eventually

WHAT ELSE DO WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT?

Ephesians 5:15

15 See then that you walk circumspectly (live carefully), not as fools but as wise,

Live carefully by being wise

How might we do that?

PRAYING

James 1:5 (Understanding God's Word)

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, **let him ask of God**, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Not talking about the God giving you new information BUT applying the information you already have and wisely applying it to you situation...in other words practical application of what is already known.

2 Timothy 2:15

15 Be diligent (study – KJV) to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing (handling) the word of truth**

IN OTHER WORDS, NEED TO READ & STUDY YOUR BIBLES SO YOU HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE TO APPLY.

GOD ISN'T GOING TO HELP YOU WITHOUT YOU DOING YOUR PART!

WHAT ELSE DO WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND AS FAR AS PRAYER?

Philippians 4:6

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, **let your requests be made known to God;**

Matthew 6:7 And when you pray, **do not use vain repetitions** as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

Not a mindless prayer repeating the same words over & over (doesn't mean can't ask for same thing more than once...but a thoughtful one...thinking about you are saying...You're addressing God Almighty not a celestial Santa Claus or the old man in the sky but ADDRESS GOD with reverence

WHAT ELSE DO WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND?

WELL, OUR TEXT SUGGESTS WE NEED TO CHANGE

OUR LIVES

Ephesians 5:11-14

11 And have no fellowship with **the unfruitful works of darkness**, but rather expose them.

12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest **by the light** (by God's word)...

14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead (wake-up & realize your sins), And **Christ will give you light.**" (thru his word)

Ephesians 5:10 proving (finding out) what is acceptable to the Lord.

2 Corinthians 13:5

5 Examine yourselves **as to whether you are in the faith.** Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you are disqualified.

Ephesians 4:32-5:1

32 And be kind to one another, **tenderhearted**, forgiving one another, **just as God in Christ forgave you.**

5:1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

A SOFT HEART READY TO FORGIVE & READY TO CHANGE

WE NEED TO OPEN OUR EYES, SEE OUR SINS, SEE THE NEED FOR CHANGE & WORK ON CHANGING OUR FAULTS

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and **is profitable** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself **against the knowledge of God**, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

This passage talks about bringing our thoughts & actions into obedience to Christ

HOW DO WE DO THAT?

An example of this might be how we talk

Psalm 1:1-2

1 Blessed is the man Who walks (lives) not in the counsel of the ungodly...

2 But **his delight** is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.

Proverbs 17:27

27 He who has knowledge **saves his words**, And a man of understanding **is of a calm spirit**.

Proverbs 15:28

28 The heart of the righteous **studies how to answer...**

Colossians 4:6

6 Let your speech **always be with grace**, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

WHEN WE DO THAT REGULARLY IT BECOMES A HABIT

SOMETIMES WE NEED HELP FROM SOMEONE ELSE

Galatians 6:1

1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass (sin), you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

WE NEED to HAVE STRONG ENOUGH MINDS to **RECEIVE CORRECTION & INSTRUCTION?**

THAT'S NOT NORMAL FOR MOST PEOPLE – want to do it their way not God's way

But strong people can receive instruction –

Proverbs 19:20

20 Listen to counsel and **receive instruction**, That you may be wise in your latter days.

Ephesians 5:17

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

WHAT ELSE DO WE NEED TO DO TO UNDERSTAND?

WHEN THERE IS AN ARGUMENT...WHAT ARE WE DO TO?

IN OUR TEXT (**Ephesians 4:1-6** STRESSES Behaving & Believing the Same)

God instructs us in his word how to do that.

1 Corinthians (fighting among themselves & believing differently)

1 Corinthians 4:6

6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, **that none of you may be puffed up** on behalf of one against the other.

1st – Need to consider we could be wrong

2nd – Not to think beyond the scriptures

2 Timothy 1:13

13 **Hold fast the pattern of sound words** which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

SOLUTION TO AN ARGUMENT IS:

STICK TO THE SCRIPTURES ALONE & HOLD TO THE PATTERN – for our FAITH

Romans 10:17

Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the word of God

WHERE IS THE FAITH OF HEARING ABOUT IT....IF YOU BELIEVE SOMETHING THAT IS NOT IN THE SCRIPTURES...THEN ITS NOT TRUE...CAN'T HAVE FAITH IN IT...ACCORDING TO WHAT GOD SAYS

WHAT DO WE NEED TO HAVE? (patience & endurance)

Hebrew 10:36 For you have **need of endurance** (live faithfully), so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise (SALVATION):

WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN SALVATION?

GOD IS DELIVERING TO US SOMETHING WE CAN HOLD TO FOR SURE

VS.

WRITING OF MEN ...OPINION

THEY MAY NOT BE HEAR IT RIGHT OR SAYING IT RIGHT

BETTER CHANCE OF UNDERSTANDING CORRECTLY

By Reading God's Word Directly

CONCLUSION

Ephesians 5:10 proving (finding out) what is acceptable to the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

(can't do whatever you want...can't go to drinking parties but need to teach against it...why? Salvation at stake)

12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light (by God's Word), ...

14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, (realize what your sins are & repent) And Christ will give you light."

15 See then that you walk circumspectly (live carefully), not as fools but as wise,

16 redeeming (making the most) the time, because the days are evil (people want to distract you from good & right...what's good & right?...only find that in God's word).

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

ARE WE READY TO DO WHAT GOD SAYS SO WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE WILL OF THE LORD?