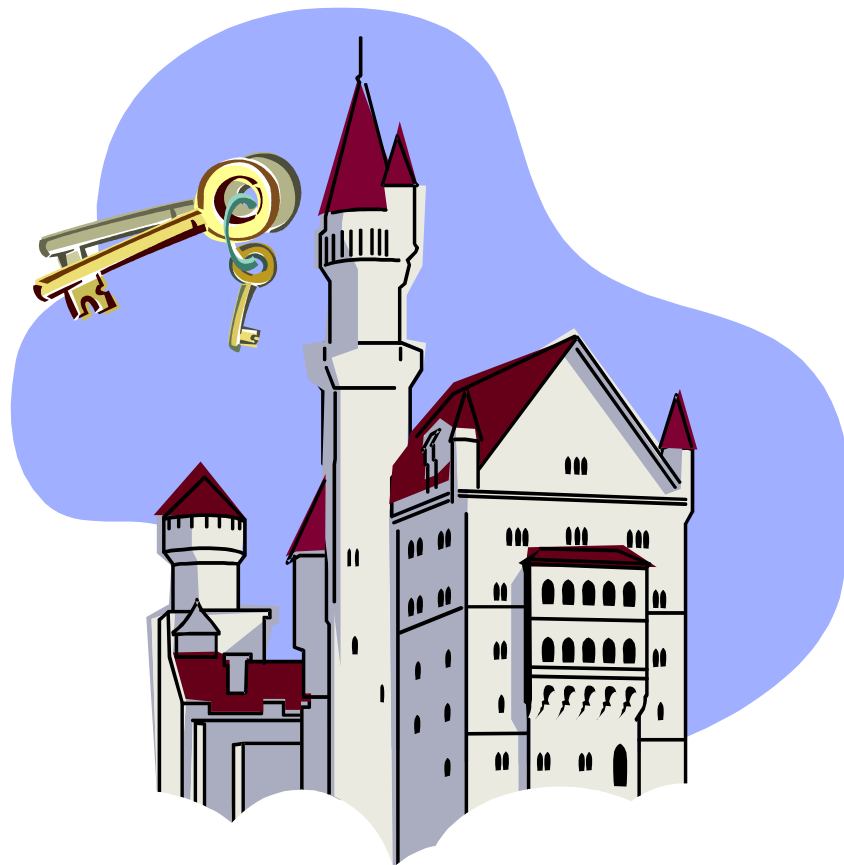


KEYS TO THE KINGDOM



HOME BIBLE STUDY

**Keys To Understanding:
Basic Bible Interpretation**

BASIC BIBLE INTERPRETATION

Have you ever wondered why there are so many different churches and belief systems within Christianity, particularly when they all use and believe in the same Bible? The reason is that they all interpret the Bible differently.

For example, some make the common mistake of simply taking verses out of context. Others read into the Bible what they want it to say. But sometimes, mistakes are more complex and difficult to explain. This Bible study is designed to help you understand some of the rules of interpretation that will give you the ability to ascertain which belief system is correct and why.

SECTION #1 – DO NOT ADD OR TAKE AWAY

Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. (Deuteronomy 4:2)

What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it. (Deuteronomy 12:32)

Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. (Proverbs 30:5-6)

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: 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. (Revelation 22:18-19)

SECTION #2 – THE WORD OF GOD IS TO BE INTERPRETED CAREFULLY

These 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. (Acts 17:11 KJV)

The people of Berea were more open-minded than the people of Thessalonica. They were very willing to receive God's message, and every day they carefully examined the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was true. (Acts 17:11 GW)

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. (2 Peter 1:20 KJV)

First, you must understand this: No prophecy in Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation. (2 Peter 1:20 GW)

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV)

Do your best to present yourself to God as a tried-and-true worker who isn't ashamed to teach the word of truth correctly. (2 Timothy 2:15 GW)

SECTION #3 – YOU NEED A TEACHER OR GUIDE (SOMEONE THAT TRULY UNDERSTANDS THE TRUTH)

And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Isaiah, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should teach me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. (Acts 8:30-31 KJV)

The official replied, "How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?" And he invited Philip to climb up and sit in the carriage with him. (Acts 8:31 GNB)

EXAMPLE #1

At that time a Jew named Apollos, who had been born in Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent speaker and had a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord, and with great enthusiasm he proclaimed and taught correctly the facts about Jesus. However, he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him home with them and explained to him more correctly the Way of God. (Acts 18:24-26 GNB)

EXAMPLE #2

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior provinces to get to the city of Ephesus. He met some disciples in Ephesus and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They answered him, "No, we've never even heard of the Holy Spirit." Paul asked them, "What kind of baptism did you have?" They answered, "John's baptism." Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. John told people to believe in Jesus, who was coming later." After they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came to them, and they began to talk in other languages and to speak what God had revealed. (Acts 19:1-6 GW)

SECTION #4 – THERE IS ONLY ONE GOSPEL MESSAGE

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:8 KJV)

Actually, there is no "other gospel," but I say this because there are some people who are upsetting you and trying to change the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel that is different from the one we preached to you, may he be condemned to hell! (Galatians 1:7-8 GNB)

SECTION #5 – BEWARE OF SCRIPTURE TWISTING

Paul talks about these same things in all his letters, but part of what he says is hard to understand. Some ignorant and unsteady people even destroy themselves by twisting what he said. They do the same thing with other Scriptures too. (2 Peter 3:16 CEV)

EXAMPLE : CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER

A.) He that believeth and is saved shall be baptized; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16:16 KJV)

B.) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16:16 KJV)

REMEMBER:

- ◆ Do not add or take away from the Scriptures (for example, the following words do not appear in the Bible: purgatory, limbo, trinity, moroni, God the Son, etc.)
- ◆ Interpret the Bible carefully! Avoid private interpretations!
- ◆ You need a guide or a teacher—preferably someone that has had a true born again experience!
- ◆ There is only one gospel message. (See John 3:3,5; Acts 2:38.)
- ◆ Do not twist the Scriptures to your liking. Whatever is written is written.

Obey
Acts 2:38

