

TOUGH QUESTIONS

WHY DON'T CHRISTIANS ALWAYS AGREE ABOUT THE BIBLE?

NOT ALL SCRIPTURE IS CLEAR

¹⁵ And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him—¹⁶ speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of Scripture. And this will result in their destruction. **2 Peter 3:15-16**

³³ Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways! **Rom. 11:33**

⁵ David and all the people of Israel were celebrating before the Lord, singing songs and playing all kinds of musical instruments—lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets, and cymbals. ⁶ But when they arrived at the threshing floor of Nacon, the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out his hand and steadied the Ark of God. ⁷ Then the Lord's anger was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him dead because of this. So Uzzah died right there beside the Ark of God. **2 Sam. 6:5-6**

20 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain.² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³ He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. ⁴ I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵ (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. **Rev. 20:1-5**

GOSPEL TRUTHS ARE CLEAR

The Great Commandment

³⁷ Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” **Matt 22:37-38**

The Golden Rule

Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets. **Matt. 7:12**

The Promise of Eternal Life

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **John 3:1**

HOW CAN WE APPROACH GOD’S WORD

ITS GOD’S WORD

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,
2 Tim. 3:16

ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. **2 Cor. 2:12-13**

READ TOP DOWN

“A text without context is pre-text.” – Walt Russell

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” **Matt 18:19**

¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸ “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be^[e] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be^[f] loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” **Matt. 18:15-19**

THE STORY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii^[e] and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ ³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” ³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” **Luke 10:30-37**

²⁵ On one occasion an **expert in the law** stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” ²⁷ He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’^[e]; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” ²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” ²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

WHO IS IN THE STORY

EXPERT IN THE LAW

JESUS

A MAN

PRIEST AND A LEVITE

A SAMARITAN

TAKE AWAY

- ACKNOWLEDGE IT IS GOD'S WORD
- APPROACH HIS WORD HUMBLY WITH THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
- LEARN FROM IT
- APPLY IT TO OUR LIVES
- CONTINUALLY GROW IN GOD'S WORD