

E. Compare Scripture with Scripture.

a. Doctrine _____

1. Progressive Revelation

- a) Charles Hodge describes it: "The progressive character of divine revelation is recognized in relation to all the great doctrines of the Bible... What at first is only obscurely intimated is gradually unfolded in subsequent parts of the sacred volume, until the truth is revealed in its fullness."
- b) Progressive Revelation teaches that God revealed Himself to His people over many centuries giving them new information which did not contradict or deny the previous revelation. The revelations given are like the building blocks of Bible Doctrine.
- c) Illustrate: Unravelling of a Present.
- d) As we interpret Scripture with Scripture we must remember that the earlier parts of the Bible often just small insights into the fullness of God's Revelation.

Consider the following examples:

- e) **The Trinity – “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...”** Genesis 1:26
 1. The word “Elohim” is plural.
 2. God speaks using the words “Let us” and “our.”
 3. Genesis 11:6-7 – God referred to as both ONE and PLURAL.
 4. Isaiah 59:19-20 – “Spirit of the LORD, the Redeemer and the LORD.” All mentioned together.
 5. In the New Testament the Trinity is completely unravelled: Matt. 3:16 – Baptism of Jesus; Matt. 28:19-20 – The Great Commission; 1 John 5:7 – The Trinity Declared.

- f) **The Messiah – “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”** Genesis 3:15
 1. This is the first allusion to the Messiah in the Scriptures.
 2. Abraham was given the promise concerning **his seed** – Genesis 12:1-3; 21:12
 3. David was promised that **his seed** will reign forever – 2 Samuel 7:12-13
 4. His Birth – Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Micah 5:2; His Sufferings and Death- Psalm 22; Isaiah 53; Daniel 9:26; His Second Coming – Daniel 7:13; Zechariah 12:10; Isaiah 9:6
 5. This was all progressively revealed over centuries and completed revealed in light of the New Testament.

b. Doctrine _____

1. Doctrinal Difficulties Resolved

- a) Comparing Scripture with Scripture is one easiest ways to resolving doctrinal difficulties.
- b) Many false teachers isolate portions of Scripture to convince people of error. Comparing Scripture with Scripture avoids this kind of bias and pitfall.
- c) A. T. Pierson says, ““No investigation of Scripture, in its various parts and separate texts, however important, must impair the sense of the supreme value of its united witness. There is not a form of evil doctrine or practice that may not claim apparent sanction and support from isolated passages; but nothing erroneous or vicious can ever find countenance from the Word of God when the whole united testimony of Scripture is weighed against it. Partial examination will result in partial views of truth which are necessarily imperfect; only careful comparison will show the complete mind of God.”

Consider the following examples:

- d) **Is God my Genie? - “If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”** John 14:14
 1. If we interpret this passage as it stands alone, it appears that God will answer any prayer that we ask, but by comparing Scripture with Scripture we see that this is not true.
Compare: James 4:3; 1 John 5:14-15; 2 Corinthians 12:8
- e) **Do Anything to Win Them? - “...I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”** 1 Corinthians 9:22
 1. Many have used this verse to teach DO ANYTHING TO WIN THE LOST... David Cloud in reference to Tennessee Temple’s compromise said, “And there was the promotionalism: turning the church into a circus to increase the crowds. There were prizes (from candy to bicycles), cheap gimmicks, exploding cakes, evangelists parachuting into the church parking lot, swallowing goldfish, demonstrating karate techniques, challenging neighbourhood men to a boxing or wrestling match. One evangelist dressed in a fire retardant suit, lit himself on fire, and called himself “the flaming evangelist”!”
 2. This passage must be compared with other Scripture.
Galatians 5:13 – “...only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh...” 1 Thess. 5:22 – “abstain from all appearance of evil.” Titus 2:2-4 “be sober...” Ephesians 5:4 – Jesting forbidden. 1 Corinthians 10:31 – “...do all to the glory of God.” - “The end doesn’t justify the means...”

3. We also have set before us in the Scripture the example of many Spirit-led soul winners with whom we can compare our ministries to: Paul, Peter, John the Baptist and Jesus.

f) **Is Jesus God? –“But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.”** Mark 13:32

1. If we compare Scripture with Scripture we can easily conclude that Jesus is God – John 1:1, 14; 10:30; 14:9; 1 Timothy 3:16; Acts 20:28; John 20:28; Hebrews 1:8 etc.
2. If we compare Scripture with Scripture further we can understand why Jesus said what He said in Mark 13:32. When God became a man, He voluntarily restricted the use of certain divine attributes Philippians 2:6-8. Hebrews 2:9 says that “he was made a little lower than the angels...”
3. When you don’t compare Scripture with Scripture you are just looking at one side of the coin and cannot properly understand that Jesus was BOTH fully God and man.

g) When comparing Scripture with Scripture always remember to let the CLEAR PASSAGES INTERPRET THE LESS CLEAR.

h) **Do we have Power to Forgive Sins? - “Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.”** John 20:23

1. All these verses teach that only God can forgive sin. Mark 2:5; Luke 5:21; Eph. 1:7
2. The comparing of John 20:21-23 with other Gospel accounts which are the Great Commission sending forth passages – Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 24:46-47
3. The disciples were given the right and authority to declare sins as forgiven through the power of the gospel.
4. William Macdonald – “Let us illustrate this third view. The disciples go out preaching the gospel. Some people repent of their sins and receive the Lord Jesus. The disciples are authorized to tell them that their sins have been forgiven. Others refuse to repent and will not believe on Christ. The disciples tell them that they are still in their sins, and that if they die, they will perish eternally.”
5. Warren Wiersbe said, “...the disciples did not provide forgiveness; they proclaimed forgiveness on the basis of the message of the gospel.”

c. Doctrine

1. Bible Doctrine Established.

- a) Building Bible doctrine upon a single verse is a very dangerous recipe for disaster. The Bible student must interpret Scripture with Scripture to help establish the truth of Bible doctrine.
- b) No doctrine can be fully comprehended until all the revelation of God is compared with one another. We must establish Bible doctrine by comparing Scripture with Scripture. Lazy Bible students are most guilty concerning this.
- c) “Compare Scripture with Scripture. False doctrines, like false witnesses, agree not among themselves.” William Gurnall
 - 1. Every Bible doctrine must be consistent with the rest of Scripture.

Consider the following examples:

- d) **Election – Does God Elect some to Heaven and others to Hell?**
 - 1. This doctrine is easily answered by considering the entirety of Scripture. There is never once a verse of Scripture teaching that God predestines people to hell. Neither is there a passage of Scripture showing that God elects some to heaven by random selection. All of God’s election is based upon His foreknowledge: **1 Peter 1:2; Romans 8:29.**
 - 2. Comparing that teaching with the doctrine of “Free Will” it is clear from the Scriptures that man chooses God.
 - 3. The way Calvinism portrays God is brutal. How can a supposed sacred doctrine portray the Sinless Holy God of heaven who “...canst not look on iniquity...” as the author of sin (Habakkuk 1:13)? How can a “sound” system of theology portray God who commands “all men every where to repent” as One who only grants repentance and faith to some? How can God “...who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work...” (1 Peter 1:17) choose some men to go to heaven and others to hell with no consideration to their decisions or actions? The God who “tasted death for every man” (Heb. 2:9); “...who gave himself a ransom for all” (1 Tim. 2:6); who “...so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son...” (John 3:16); who is “...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9) this very God who is the pinnacle of justice, how could He predetermine by the counsel of His own will that certain souls be damned and others to be delivered? The God who is love (1 John 4:8), who does not allow equal power for His beloved creation to have a relationship with Him? If you are truly honest with your conscience and the Scriptures you must question: What justice is this? What love is this?

e) **Unconditional Forgiveness: Is it Biblical?**

1. If you compare Scripture with Scripture you will find that all forgiveness is conditioned upon repentance, or confession.

Luke 17:3-4; 1 John 1:9 etc.

2. “Nowhere in Scripture is the Christian told to unconditionally forgive an unbeliever who sins against him. To do so is only a meaningless gesture; for by what authority does a Christian forgive sin? This only leads to a false view of forgiveness, and the world will gain the idea that Christians practise cheap forgiveness, like New Age adherents. For Christians to offer unconditional forgiveness to all and sundry is to make a mockery of the Cross of Christ. ... The moral wrongness of unconditional forgiveness is that it condones sin and wrongdoing. The wrongdoer is not held accountable for his sin, but actually encouraged to believe that it is a light matter” (Christ or Therapy? pp. 99, 100).

f) **So What Did It Say? -“This is the king of the Jews” Luke 23:38**

Consider the superscription on Jesus’ cross:

1. Mat 27:37 “this is Jesus the king of the Jews”

2. Mk. 15:26 “the king of the Jews”

3. Lk. 23:38 “this is the king of the Jews”

4. Jn. 19:19 “Jesus of Nazareth the king of the Jews”

g) By comparing Scripture with Scripture, we find that the complete inscription read: “This is Jesus of Nazareth the king of the Jews.”

Homework:

- Reading and Quotations: Bible Explorers Guide, J. Phillips – Part 1 – Ch. 14 – 17
- Interpret Matthew 3:11 – What is the Baptism of the Holy Ghost? Is it still available today? How and when is it received? Consider: 1 Cor. 12:13; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 11:16; Romans 6:4. Also consider other passages of Scripture to establish this Bible Doctrine.