

The Bible must be approached by **thinking men** who are desiring to understand a **thinking God**. There is no magic involved. There is no mystery that has not yet been revealed. We do not read to get a warm feeling but to gain a true understanding. Once the Bible is grasped and the teaching is obeyed we will have a feeling of confidence in our salvation.

Hebrews 10 tells us we can approach God in confidence. This is not a feeling that comes and goes. This is not trusting in some man who may have told us the truth. We have read and understood the meaning of the Gospel for ourselves. We have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine it presented (Rom. 6:17). Now we can have boldness (Heb. 10:18-21). Heb. 10:22 says, *“Let us draw near with a true heart in **full assurance** of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”* Paul says the **Gospel of Christ** is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). Surely we can understand it.

The divisions in the religious world are not because man **cannot** understand the Bible. If that were the case we would have to blame God for not writing in a clear way. It is not that man **cannot** understand the Bible, but that often he **does not** understand it. He fails to read it. He fails to believe what he reads. He fails to apply what he learns. He fails to interpret one passage in light of what other Bible verses teach. He trusts others to learn it and to teach it to him. Some of those he trusts are dishonest. Some have been trained in the doctrines of men and will view every Scripture through the filter of their previous ideas. Some will purposely deceive in order to gain a following for themselves. Some are not diligent enough to learn, but are clever enough to present teachings as if they had learned something.

We can all understand the Bible alike if we will take it as God has given it, with purity and sincerity.

# Mooreville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooreville, IN 46158

October 6, 2019

## Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

## Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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## Announcements

Our Gospel meeting with Jerome Sasanecki begins today. Jerome will be teaching the Bible class in the morning, and the older classes are encouraged to come upstairs. We will meet tonight at 5:00 and at 7:00 Monday through Friday. Come each night and invite your friends.

You can sign up to read the Bible to Lucille. The schedule is on the board.

The adult Bible class on Sunday morning will begin a study of the church next week. Books are located on the rear desk. If you and your spouse would like separate copies feel free to take two. Randy will be leading the discussion for this quarter.

Continue to pray for those who are physically ill. Also remember to pray for those who are weak in faith. Do not forget about those who have been withdrawn from either.

**Godly  
Sorrow is a  
Good Thing  
(2 Cor. 7:10)**

## “Can We Understand The Bible Alike?”

Ron Roberts

“Can we understand the Bible alike?” The question is often asked because of so many **different denominations**. The churches of men claim to be *following Jesus*. They say they *believe the Bible* is the inspired word of God. They say they are *following the instructions they have read contained in the Gospel*. And yet every one of us can see the different practices, doctrines, and beliefs contained in each group. If we believe each of them is making a genuine effort to understand the Bible then are we to conclude the Bible is too difficult for man?

Is the difficulty in the Bible or in **their background**? Do they come to the Bible with preconceived notions? Do they open the sacred word with their minds already made up, and they merely search for a proof text which seems to back up what they already believed?

Perhaps the problem is not in the Bible but in the **failure to read** what it says. Far too many people trust their preacher to teach them the truth. They do not believe the Bible can be comprehended by common people. They need a preacher who attended seminary to explain what the book says. They listen to him without ever questioning his teaching.

For many the issue is not the Bible but the way they approach it. They do not see the Bible as a book that is communicating God’s ways to man. Instead they think of it as a book that brings general principles to man who is then **entitled to interpret** them in any way that works for him. The Bible does not give commands but ideas. It is not authoritative but inspirational in leading us to our own conclusions.

If we believe the Bible is incomprehensible then why do we think God wrote it? Do we think He is not smart enough to talk to the man He created? Do we think God is cruel and gave us a mystery we will die trying to uncover with no success? Do we think God wants to condemn us, so He gave us a book with instructions that justifies Him

and condemns us for failing to do what we cannot understand? Isa. 55:9 says, “*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*” Is God telling us that He cannot be understood by man? If this is the case then why did He write the Bible?

God’s ways and thoughts are above ours, but through the Bible we can elevate ourselves to His higher understanding. God will always be wiser than man, but man can learn what God expects of him. In the same text Isaiah writes, “*Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon*” (Isa. 55:6-7). God is instructing us to discern unrighteousness and wickedness. He is teaching us we can seek, find, and call upon Him by turning to His word instead of following our own course. If we return to Him He will have mercy upon our past errors.

“Can we understand the Bible alike?” Of course. The fact is, there are many ways to **misunderstand** the Bible, but only one way to understand it. If we understand the Bible we will all be alike in learning what God meant by His communication to man.

Paul wrote, “*How that **by revelation** He made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy Apostles and prophets **by the Spirit**” (Eph. 3:3-5).*

The Holy Spirit revealed God’s truth to the Apostles (1 Cor. 2:10-16). They then understood the mystery He revealed to them. Paul wrote down the truth he learned and tells us we can understand it when we read it. The Bible is understandable if it is approached in a logical manner. We cannot drop a finger on a verse and expect to gain knowledge. We must read it in sequence like any other document.