

“Understand What
the Will of the Lord Is”

God Reveals His Will...

- Not by body language
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 - Not by direct leading of the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
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II Timothy 3:16-17

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

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 - Not by “chastening”
 - By human language (1 Corinthians 2:11-13)
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I Corinthians 2:11-13

¹¹For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given us by God. ¹³These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Hermeneutics

- The process of interpreting verbal information and instructions and applying them
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We are Responsible for Obeying All of God's Commands

¹⁰For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. ¹¹For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. - James 2:10-11

Truth and Error is Defined by the Revealed Word

- All Spiritual Truth is Contained in It –
Jn. 8:31-32; Jn. 17:17; 1 Th. 2:13; 2
Pet. 1:3
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John 8:31-32

³¹Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.
³²And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 17:17

¹⁷Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

I Thessalonians 2:13

¹³For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

II Peter 1:3

³as His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.

Truth and Error is Defined by the Revealed Word

- All Spiritual Truth is Contained in It – Jn. 8:31-32; Jn. 17:17; 1 Th. 2:13; 2 Pet. 1:3
 - Deviation From It is Error – Jms. 5:19-20; Mt. 22:29
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James 5:19-20

¹⁹Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, ²⁰let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Matthew 22:29

²⁹Jesus answered and said to them,
“You are mistaken, not knowing the
Scriptures nor the power of God.”

Truth and Error is Defined by the Revealed Word

- All Spiritual Truth is Contained in It – Jn. 8:31-32; Jn. 17:17; 1 Th. 2:13; 2 Pet. 1:3
 - Deviation From It is Error – Jms. 5:19-20; Mt. 22:29
 - Distinguishing Truth from Error is Critical – 2 Tim. 2:15; Rom. 2:8; Rom. 2:2; Jn. 8:31; Jn. 14:21-24
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II Timothy 2:15

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

Distinguishing Truth from Error Depends Upon Understanding the Revealed Word

- **If** understanding the word is so critical to obeying God's will
 - **And if** God is going to hold us accountable for obeying His will
 - **Then we must be able to understand the word**
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We Can and Must Understand God's Word

Understanding is hindered by:

- Wrong attitudes (Jn. 7:17)
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John 7:17

17 “If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.”

We Can and Must Understand God's Word

Understanding is hindered by:

- Wrong attitudes (Jn. 7:17)
 - Not this:
 - Men's doctrine (Mk. 7:5-13)
 - Deaf ears, closed mind (Mt. 13:13-16)
 - Prejudice (Prov. 18:13)
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 - Not this:
 - Men's doctrine (Mk. 7:5-13)
 - Deaf ears, closed mind (Mt. 13:13-16)
 - Prejudice (Prov. 18:13)
 - But this:
 - Meekness (Jms. 2:21)
 - Good and honest heart (Lk. 8:15)
 - Love of the truth (2 Th. 2:10-12)
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We Can and Must Understand God's Word

Understanding is hindered by:

- Wrong attitudes (Jn. 7:17)
 - Incomplete knowledge (1 Pet. 2:1-2; Heb. 5:11-14)
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Hebrews 5:12-14

¹²For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

We Can and Must Understand God's Word

- Jesus did not give His apostles instant understanding until the end of his ministry (Lk 24:45-46; Acts 1:6-9)
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Luke 24:45-46

⁴⁵And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. ⁴⁶Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,"

We Can and Must Understand God's Word

- ❑ Jesus did not give His apostles instant understanding until the end of his ministry (Lk 24:45-46; Acts 1:6-9)
 - ❑ The Holy Spirit does not instantly give us understanding (Jn. 14:26; 16:13; Eph. 3:4-5)
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John 14:26, 16:13

²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to remembrance all things that I said to you.

¹³However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth. . .

Ephesians 3:4-5

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

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 - ❑ The listener is responsible for understanding (Eph. 5:17; Mt. 13:14-15)
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Ephesians 5:17

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

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 - ❑ The Holy Spirit does not instantly give us understanding (Jn. 14:26; 16:13; Eph. 3:4-5)
 - ❑ The listener is responsible for understanding (Eph. 5:17; Mt. 13:14-15)
 - ❑ The Scriptures are the source of understanding (2 Tim. 3:14-17)
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II Timothy 3:14-15

¹⁴But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you learned them, ¹⁵and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

II Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

II Peter 3:15-17

¹⁵...as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. ¹⁷You therefore, beloved, since you know these things beforehand, beware lest you fall from your own steadfastness, being led away by the error of the wicked;

Understand What the Will of the Lord Is

- ❑ **Since** we must comply with God's will to please him...
 - ❑ **And since** his will is revealed in the Bible...
 - ❑ **And since** we must correctly understand and apply the Bible to comply with it...
 - ❑ **Then we would do well to examine how to interpret and apply the Bible to our lives.**
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Principles of Understanding

- Commands
 - Specific and Generic Authority
 - Necessary Inferences
 - Examples
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