

09- Can You Understand The Bible?

As we shared in a previous post, God inspired the original writers of the original books that compose the Bible. Because God did not inspire the translators as they translated the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts into our native languages, every translation has some degree of inaccuracy. Some of our translations are better than others but we need to be ever vigilant for those areas that are not properly translated and do not agree with the majority of the scriptures in our Bible that deal with the subject we are examining.

Following this cardinal rule makes us equally comfortably using almost any translation of the Bible into English whether, for example, it's the King James Version, the New International Version or the Confraternity–Douay Version, (Saint Joseph New Catholic Edition), just to name a few. The wording may be different in each translation and sometimes the names of the books are different, but if you will examine all the scriptures that deal with a particular subject, you will find that the truth taught is the same.

When many of us face the reality that the book we hold in our hand is not the pure Word of God, our first impulse is to throw it all away. Do not despair. All is not lost. Would you quit eating grapes just because you have to watch out for the seeds and spit them out? Do gardeners forsake the potato crop when they discover they must search for the potatoes by digging so they might enjoy potato salad?

In the next few articles, we will offer a few suggestions that will enable you to glean the truth from God's Word while you stay away from the seeds of error in your favorite translation that you call your "Bible" or stay away from the seeds of error in your favorite commentary if there are any?

Our first suggestion that will enable you to glean the truth from God's Word while you stay away from the seeds of error in your favorite translation or your favorite commentary is, first and most important, be sure you are one of God's children. Have you ever gone to God in prayer and asked God to forgive you of the sins you have committed? Have you asked that the payment Christ provided on the cross, pay for the sin debt you owed? Have you made your appeal through **saving faith**, that is, confessing to God there is nothing you can do to help earn eternal life? Please read the previous posts again. We are not exercising saving faith in Christ until we admit there is nothing we can do to help gain eternal life. There was not one saved person mentioned in the Old Testament who was baptized or who belonged to a local church.

"42Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." 43And Jesus said to him "Amen I say to thee, this day thou shalt be with me in paradise." Luke 23:42-43 Confraternity–Douay Version (Saint Joseph New Catholic Edition).

Why is it necessary to know Christ as our Savior in order to understand the Bible? **The Bible can only be understood through the illumination of the Holy Spirit.** The only message a lost person will receive from the Holy Spirit of God contains a call to come to God in prayer, repent of their sins and ask that Jesus Christ pay their sin debt. This is their only hope of salvation. Everything else is foolishness to a lost person. *" 11 For 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. 12 Now 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 to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But **the natural man** does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:11-14 (New King James Version)*