

Barriers to Hell

Just like the highway department sets up barriers on the road to keep traffic from entering a dangerous area, so God has set up barriers on the road of life to keep us from going to hell.

Jesus said that many are travelling the broad way that leads to destruction - the road to hell (Matthew 7:13). But, we must remember that hell is not prepared for man (Matthew 25:41). Actually, heaven is, if we will choose it (John 14:2-3). God does not want anyone to be lost (1 Timothy 2:4), so he has set up many barriers on the road to hell. What are they?

Think about godly parents (Proverbs 22:6), the Bible (Psalm 119:11, 105), examples from others (Luke 6:24-26), Jesus Christ dying on the cross (Romans 6:23), and assembling with the local church (Hebrews 10:24-25). These are all barriers that God has set up to keep you from hell.

What else? Concerned Christians (Galatians 6:1-2), warnings through preaching (Mt. 23:33), prayer (Matthew 6:13-14), and time itself (2 Peter 3:9, 15). These too are barriers that God has set up so that you won't go to hell.

Certainly God does not want you to go to hell. He does all he can to stop you, but he will not force you to stop. Are you ignoring the barriers? Don't ignore God's barriers on the road to hell and don't remove them! They are there for our good.
- Chris Reeves

Up-Coming Events

- We are studying Romans in February. We have great Bible classes. Come check them out!
- The teen Bible study will be February 25 at the Montague's house, 5 pm.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Can We Understand the Bible Alike? - Part 2

Can we understand the Bible and understand it alike? Absolutely! God, in fact, expects us to. In last week's bulletin, I discussed how that we can understand the Bible alike because of the nature of God, the nature of scripture, and the nature of mankind. Today, I want to discuss the attitudes and approaches that many have toward the Bible that keep them from understanding it alike.

Many people are convinced that they cannot understand the Bible, especially understand it alike. Some attempt to justify their own ignorance, false teaching, or division this way. If two people properly *understand* what God says on a matter, they will agree; if one or both *misunderstand* what God says, they will disagree. Proper *understanding* of God's word leads to agreement; *misunderstanding* leads to disagreement.

If we can understand the Bible at all, we can understand it alike. We may *misunderstand* the Bible differently, but we do not *understand* the Bible differently.

While it is true that we can understand the Bible alike, it is also true that many do not understand the Bible alike. Just look at all the religious division and confusion over the Bible that exists today. So, why is it that many do not understand the Bible alike?

Before answering that question, let us consider another question first: Why is

it that many understand a parent, a spouse, a teacher, a boss, a police officer, etc., but, they do not understand the Bible? The answer: They choose to understand the people in their lives who speak to them, but they do not want to understand God who speaks to them in the Bible.

Now, back to our question: Why is it that many do not understand the Bible alike? The answer: Many people have different attitudes and approaches toward the Bible which keep them from understanding the Bible properly. Let us consider a few of them.

Hard hearts, dull ears, and closed eyes will keep a person from understanding the Bible. Jesus said this was the problem of many in his day (Matthew 13:14-15). A person who does not want to let the light of God's truth into his life will not understand the Bible. A person who does not love truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12) will believe a lie and will not understand the Bible.

Following the traditions of men and blind guides will keep a person from understanding the Bible. Again, Jesus said this was the problem of many in his day (Matthew 15:3,9,13-14). Some simply follow the influence of their parents, the religious creeds of men, or their own personal feelings. All of this will keep a person from understanding the Bible.

Blatant infidelity or unbelief will keep a person from understanding the Bible. The Jews and others in Jesus' day simply did not want to believe the gospel message (John 5:39-47; Acts 7:51). Those who will not believe are

not going to be forced to understand.

Accepting division will keep a person from understanding the Bible. Jesus prayed for unity (John 17:20-21) and Paul pled for unity (1 Corinthians 1:10), but many today do not pray and plea for the same. Being satisfied with religious division as the norm will keep a person from understanding the Bible.

Arguing outside of revealed truth will keep a person from understanding the Bible. Paul writes about the babblings, fables, and wives' tales of men, all of which are outside the Bible (1 Timothy 1:4; 4:7; 2 Timothy 4:4; Titus 1:14). Anyone arguing about *what is not in scripture* (like the kind of fruit that Adam and Eve ate) will keep a person from understanding *what is in scripture*. When a person is unwilling to stay within God's revealed word (2 John 9-11; Revelation 22:18-19), he will misunderstand the Bible.

Being unlearned and unstable will twist the scriptures and keep a person from understanding the Bible (2 Peter 3:16). Using different Bible study rules, taking a verse out of its context, and failing to make distinctions between various parts of the Bible will cause a person to misunderstand the Bible.

Yes, we can understand the Bible and understand it alike! God expects us to understand his word alike in order to be saved and be united in Christ. - *Chris Reeves*