

The Challenge of Biblical Research *A Biblical Studies Class*

Introduction

There are at least four approaches for how to address the Bible:

1. Read parts of the Bible, decide it is difficult, distasteful, and appears to contradict itself – so quit reading it
2. Choose the Bible verses you like and ignore the rest
3. Focus on the verses your church leaders like, and ignore the ones they ignore
4. Let the Bible interpret itself so you don't have to guess or follow the guesses of others

The Bible Interprets Itself

II Timothy 2:15 - rightly divide: straight cutting, not crooked.

Psalms 14:1 - No God?

I Corinthians 12:1 - not ignorant

II Peter 1:20 - No Private Interpretation (*idios* - one's own)

interpretation - letting your mind loose

It must interpret itself

To Whom The Word Is Written (or to whom it applies)

I Corinthians 10:32 - Jew, Gentile, Church of God

Romans 15:4 - For our learning

I Corinthians 10:11 - Admonition - examples [cf. vs. 1, 2]

Romans 15:8 - JC: circumcision; gospels: Jews (& Gentiles)

To us:

I Corinthians 1:2 - church of God

Ephesians 1:1 - Saints, faithful

Zealous for law:

James 1:1 - 12 tribes (OT minded)

Acts 21:20 - zealous for law

Galatians 5:1 - Stand fast in liberty

Context:

Romans 8:37-39; 11:21, 22; 9:3, 4; 10:1; 11:1, 13

Note:

Introduction to other epistles, circulate - Colossians 4:16

Example: Grace and Law

Deut 6:25	Law
Rom 3:20-26	Grace
Rom 4:4-5	Believing is counted for righteousness
Rom 5:1-9	This grace wherein we stand
Rom 6:14	We are under grace
Rom 11:5-6	If by grace, then no more of works
Rom 16:24	The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all
I Cor 1:3, 4	Grace unto you, I thank God for the grace
I Cor 15:10	By the grace of God I am what I am
II Cor. 9:6-8	God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye, having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work

Sufficiency: vs. 8 – *autarkeia*: A perfect condition of life in which no aid or support is needed; Sufficiency of the necessities of life; A mind contented with its lot

II Cor 12:7-10	My grace is sufficient for thee (vs. 9)
Gal 1:3, 6	Grace to you, called into the grace of Christ
Gal 2:21	I do not frustrate the grace of God
Eph 1:2, 7	Grace to you, the riches of his grace
Eph 2:5, 7-8	By grace are ye saved
Eph 3:1-13	Administration of the grace of God (vs. 2)
Titus 3:7	Justified by his grace, heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
Heb. 4:16	Let us come boldly unto the throne of grace
I Peter 1:13	Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind and be strong: Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. (NIV)

Salvation, Eternal Life, and Inheritance

Eph 2	By grace are ye saved – the gift of God (vs. 8)
Rom 11:1-6	If works, then no more grace (vs. 6)
I Cor 3:10-15	We receive rewards for good works, but are saved regardless
I Pet 1:23	Being born again of incorruptible seed
I Cor 15:51-58	We shall all be changed (vs. 51)
Eph 1:7-14	We have obtained an inheritance , holy spirit is the downpayment
Col 1:12-14	God has made us adequate to be partakers of the inheritance
Col 3:4	When Christ...shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory
Col 3:23-25	Rewards do depend on works, but our inheritance is by grace
I Thes 4:13-18	We will meet the Lord in the air – so shall we ever be
I Pet 1:3-4	An inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away

Some Difficult Verses

I Cor 6:9-11	The unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God [NOTE: we are righteous!]
I Cor 15:50	Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God [NOT: keep reading, we shall all be changed!]
Gal 5:16-25	They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God [NOTE: not us, as we already have the inheritance]
Eph 5:1-6	No whoremonger has any inheritance in the kingdom of God [NOTE: this refers to idolaters – those not yet born again]
Heb 6:4-6	If they fall away, impossible to renew them to repentance [NOTE: once you are born again, it is incorruptible seed – no need to renew]
Rev 2:10-11	He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death [NOTE: we will

have bodies immortal and incorruptible, so this **cannot** apply to us]

Rev 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me [NOTE: we are **already** seated in the heavenly places with Christ, so why would we have to earn that privilege by overcoming anything? (Eph 2:5)]

Rev 21:7-8 Second death

Rev 20:11-15 Judgement and lake of fire

Food, the Law, and Grace

Lev 11 Dietary Laws – prohibition about eating many things

Mat 15:1-20 Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man, but that which goeth out of his mouth

Acts 10:9-15 What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common [cf. Acts 10:28; 11:9]

Acts 15:1-20 Abstain from meats offered to idols... (vs. 29) [Acts 21:20 – zealous for the law]

I Cor 8 Meat commendeth us not to God (vs. 8) [we can't win God's approval by what we eat – NIV] NOTE which brother is "weak"

I Sam 21:1-6 David and the shewbread [consecrated bread]

Mat 12:1-8 Jesus Christ and the shewbread

Sin and Grace

Rom 5-6 Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound (5:20)

Rom 7 I delight in the law of God after the inward man (vs. 22)

Rom 8:1-4 No condemnation

I Cor 11 Long hair in the church [NOTE: no such custom]

I John 5:1-5 His commandments are not grievous (vs. 3)

Mat 22:34-40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets

Gal 5:14 All the law is fulfilled...love thy neighbor as thyself
I Thes 5:16-18 Rejoice, pray, give thanks
II Cor 3:1-17 Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (vs. 17)
Mat 6:1-5 They have their reward (vs. 2)
II Cor 10:12 They comparing themselves by themselves are not wise
II Tim 2:1 Be strong in the grace

Summary – Rejoice

Luke 2:8-10 Even at his birth, great rejoicing
Acts 8:5-8 Christ preached, great joy
Ro. 5:1-2 Rejoice in hope of the glory of God (Rev. 21:23)
Ro. 12:12 Rejoicing in hope, persevering in prayer
Ro. 15:13 Joy & peace in believing
II Cor 1:24 Helpers of your joy
Gal. 5:22 Fruit of totality of new nature
Phil. 3:1-3 Rejoice in Lord, no confidence in flesh
Phil. 4:4 Rejoice in the lord always
Col. 1:9-11 Patience with joyfulness
I Thes. 5:16-18 Rejoice evermore
I John 1:3-4 Fulness of joy - fellowship