

How to Interpret Scripture

Lesson - 4 — The Bible—the Authoritative Source of Our Theology

TEXT “ONLINE” to 40544

Memory Verse

Isaiah 8:20 (NKJV) *“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them”*

Tradition

Mark 7:6–13 (NKJV) *He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. ⁷And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ⁸For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.” ⁹He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. ¹⁰For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ ¹¹But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban”—’ (that is, a gift to God), ¹²then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, ¹³making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”*

“Such doctrine as this the Papists teach, discharging children from all obligation to their parents by their monastic vows, and their entrance into religion, as they call it.” Matthew Henry

Not all traditions are bad, Thanksgiving, hand shaking

The handshake dates back to the 5th century B.C. in Greece. It was a symbol of peace, showing that neither person was carrying a weapon.

Calling Sunday the Lord’s day.

Where’s the command to keep the first day holy.

1 Corinthians 11:2 *Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions (precepts, ordinances) just as I delivered them to you.*

2 Thessalonians 3:6–7 (NKJV) *But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;*

What are some of the things we do as a church that could be put under the label “tradition”? Why is it always important to distinguish them from a biblical teaching?

Haystacks, head coverings, standing when you pray before a meal.

Experience

- An atheist rebuked a young woman and her brother for reading that “*bad book of fables*” pointing to their Bible. Sir, she replied, “a little while ago my brother was an idler, a gambler, a drunkard, and was so loud at home that no one could stay in it. Since he began to read the Bible, he now works with industry, does not drink gamble, brings home money to his poor old mother, and our life at home is quiet and delightful. How is it sir that a bad book produces such good fruits?”

Romans 2:4 (NKJV) *Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?*

Should our personal experience inform what we believe to be truth?

Answered prayers should increase our faith but if a prayer does not seem to be answered, it should not undermine our confidence in the Bible.

Titus 3:4–5 (NKJV) *But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,*

2 Corinthians 11:1–3 (NKJV) *Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. ²For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. ³But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

Why is it crucial that we always test our experience through the Word of God?

Culture

Culture; is the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, encompassing language, values, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts.

When we are reading the Bible is very helpful to understand the culture of the writers. Many were shepherds and farmers so the parables spring from their cultural perspective. Nathan with David.

1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV) *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.* I think it's a good thing pastors are not forced to stand behind the podium when they preach.

To wear a tie, or not wear a tie? Unless you wash or change them frequently it can be a breeding ground for pandemic!
Wedding rings?

Gender choosing your gender? Males and females are different on a genetic, biochemical and cellular level.

Male MMA boxer sex change now wants to fight in the women's division.

The idea that a man could wish himself to be a woman is a cultural fantasy. He will not ovulate, he will not lactate, he will not give birth.

Mark 10:6–7 (NKJV) *But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.'*⁷ *'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,*

1 Corinthians 9:19–22 (NKJV) *For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;²⁰ and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;²¹ to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law;²² to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.*

“The followers of Christ are to be separate from the world in principles and interests, but they are not to isolate themselves from the world. The Saviour mingled constantly with men, not to encourage them in anything that was not in accordance with God's will, but to uplift and ennoble them.” — Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 323.

Reason

Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV) *“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.*

2 Corinthians 10:5–6 (NKJV) *casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*

Matthew 16:26 (NKJV) *For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*

Proverbs 1:7 (NKJV) *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

- Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen. — Martin Luther

Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV) *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

Ephesians 4:18–19 (NKJV) *having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

An evangelistic meeting is designed around the approach of reasoning with the audience through Scripture.

The Bible

Luke 21:33 (NKJV) *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.*

1 Peter 1:24–25 (NKJV) *because “All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,²⁵ But the word of the Lord endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.*

John 4:46–48 (NKJV) *So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Then Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.”*

John 7:38 (NKJV) *He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”*

John 17:17 (NKJV) *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*