

PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

March 6, 2016

Let Scripture Explain Scripture

by Frank Himmel

The Bible is actually a collection of books, written by several dozen authors over a period of about 1,500 years. Nevertheless, because it was all inspired by the Holy Spirit, there is a wholeness and consistency to it. That consistency provides a valuable Bible study principle: *let Scripture explain Scripture*.

Inspired Interpretation

Occasionally one writer will cite another and explain the passage. For example, God said through Malachi, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated" (1:2-3). What does that mean? The answer is in Romans 9. Paul coupled this statement in Malachi with Genesis 25:23, where God told Rebekah, "Two nations are in your womb... the older will serve the younger." God "loved" Jacob by choosing him and his family as the ones through whom the Christ would come; He "hated" Esau by not choosing him.

More Information

Another way Scripture can explain Scripture is by providing more information, perhaps on the meaning

of a word or phrase. Jesus emphasized the necessity of being "born again," born of water and the Spirit (John 3:3, 5). How do we accomplish that? Other references explain. 1 Peter 1:23-24 says we are born again of the word of God when we obey the truth. Titus 3:5 speaks of the "washing of regeneration [new birth]," a reference to baptism, and "renewing by the Holy Spirit." Ephesians 5:26 simply calls it "the washing of water with the word." Thus, we are born again when we are baptized into Christ and begin a new life, directed by the Spirit's instruction in God's word.



Inspired Application

Nowhere is this rule more vital than in studying Old Testament prophecy. When a Bible writer or speaker cites a prophecy and says by inspiration that it is fulfilled in a specific event, that is final. Thus, Joel's prophecy of the outpouring of God's Spirit referred to the events on Pentecost (Acts 2:15-21). Psalm 2 was predicting the rejection of Jesus (Acts 4:25-28). And Isaiah

chapter 11 – the familiar picture of the wolf dwelling with the lamb, etc. – was fulfilled 2,000 years ago by Jews and Gentiles together becoming Christians (Romans 15:7-13). Clearly then, neither Isaiah nor any other Old Testament prophet (see Acts 3:24) was foretelling a utopian earth that is still future in our day. Let Scripture explain Scripture.

Whose Problem Is It?

by Frank Himmel

Paul appointed elders in the churches of Galatia near the end of his first preaching trip there (Acts 14:23). Some time later he wrote a letter to those churches. When he got to the subject of erring brethren, the Apostle wrote, “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:1-2). The elders were certainly included in “you who are spiritual,” yet clearly it was a broader reference. More brethren than the elders needed to be involved in the work of restoration.

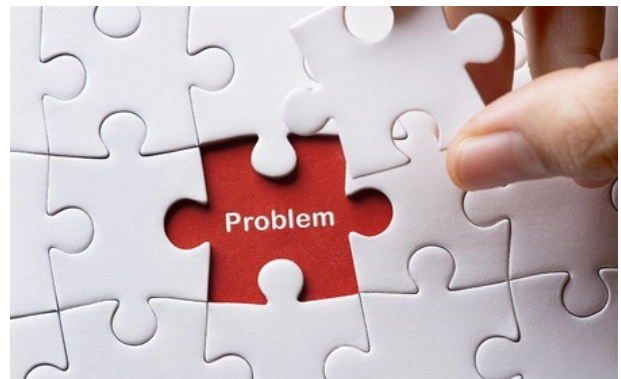
The church at Corinth was rife with problems: division, immorality, wrong attitudes, false teaching, etc. Timothy, a young preacher, was on the way, but it was not his responsibility alone to fix everything. Paul addressed a letter to the entire congregation (1 Corinthians 1:2) in which he outlined what each one should be doing.

The Corinthians had still another problem, a financial one. They made a commitment to providing relief for poor Christians in Judea, but as the time for payment drew near the funds were not there. What was the solution? “On the first day of the week each one of you

is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come” (1 Corinthians 16:1). “Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:8). “Each one.” While some could do more than others, it was everyone’s problem, and everyone needed to do what he could to solve it.

The young church at Thessalonica faced significant opposition from without. Whose job was it to encourage them? Everyone’s! “Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing” (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Every Christian is a member of the body (1 Corinthians 12:27). A problem in the body is therefore everyone’s problem. Elders, deacons, teachers, and preachers each have their specific tasks, but let no one sit back and leave all the work to them. Get involved and help. As an old saying goes, “If you’re not part of the solution, you’re part of the problem.”



Service Leaders for the Week			
	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Greg Winget	Bruce Williams	David Gray
SONG LEADER	Carlos Garcia	William Lefort	Albert Harrison Sr
OPENING PRAYER	Jason Chandler	Brian Wilson	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Paul Richmond	Paul Richmond	
CUP	Howard Moore	Howard Moore	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Chad Brock		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel	Greg Winget
CLOSING PRAYER	Justin Candella	Lee Davenport	Josh Baucom