

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY #19 **BIBLE STUDY PERILS TO AVOID**

Matthew 18:15-17

2 Corinthians 13:1

There are some perils to avoid when studying your Bible! Keep these in mind when reading and study time as following these principles will keep you away from _____ doctrine!

I. NEVER BASE A DOCTRINE ON A SINGLE VERSE OR PASSAGE

- Our starting passages stated that every word should be established in the mouth of _____ or _____ witnesses. One witness is _____, therefore one verse to support a doctrine is _____ either!
- You _____ yourself from bad teaching as you understand and apply this truth.

Example #1: “baptized for the dead” in **1 Corinthians 15:29**

Mormon doctrine (NOT Bible doctrine!): “*Ceremonial baptisms occur when a member brings an ancestor’s name to a temple. Mormons believe the ritual allows deceased people a way to the afterlife if they choose to accept it.*”

- Mormons will also cite **John 3:1-5** as a passage that supports those who are “baptized for the dead” - but this is a clear case of taking Scripture out of _____.

Example #2: speaking in “the tongues... of angels” in **1 Corinthians 13:1**

Charismatic doctrine (NOT Bible doctrine!): Speaking in an “angelic tongue” when one prays is a display of “the gift of tongues.”

- Make sure to read the verses that follow so that proper _____ is determined! If you, like Paul, have an angelic language, have you also given your body to be burned?!

II. NEVER VIOLATE A CLEAR PASSAGE WHEN TRYING TO UNDERSTAND AN OBSCURE PASSAGE

cf. **2 Peter 3:15,16** - There ARE obscure passages in the Bible. Some passages are clearly _____.

- cf. **Daniel 12:4** - There are certain portions of Scripture that are _____ until the time when God is ready to reveal their meaning
- cf. **2 Corinthians 12:1-4** - Is this Paul, or someone else?

Whatever the passage means, it will probably be _____ rather than more complex, _____ than more obscure, and _____ rather than mysterious.

When reading and studying the Bible, be sure to focus on what you _____ understand rather than what you cannot understand!

III. NEVER BASE A DOCTRINE ON A QUESTION

- Questions are to interrogate, not to _____. Many strange and heretical doctrines are based in passages that are questions rather than _____ teachings of God's word.

The passage we examined in 1 Corinthians 15:29 concerning those "baptized for the dead" contains TWO questions!

cf. **James 2:20** - Uh oh! Does this mean that works must accompany faith for a person to be saved?! No! Notice that this verse is a question and therefore will not be the _____ for something as significant as teaching that salvation is grace plus works. Applying the principle of context, **James 2:21-24** makes the passage clearer.

Another example is found in **Romans 9:13-24** where many extremist views of _____ are based on a series of questions.