

Studying Your Bible

Rev 1:3 Blessed is he who reads
and those who hear the words of
the prophecy, and heed the things
which are written in it; for the
time is near.

In order to heed the things which are written,
we are going to have to do more than just
listen to what the Bible says.

2Ti 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself
approved to God as a workman who does not
need to be ashamed, accurately handling the
word of truth.

The King James Version says,
“Study to show thyself approved”
in 2Ti 2:15

The idea is to put an effort into it.

Why?

That you might “not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

It is possible to very bright, very
educated and still mishandle the
word of truth.

Act 22:16 'And now why do you
delay? Arise, and be baptized, and
wash away your sins, calling on
His name.'

“It is possible, as in Act 2:38, to take these words as teaching baptismal remission or salvation by means of baptism, but to do so is in my opinion a complete subversion of Paul’s vivid and picturesque language. As in Rom6:4-6 where baptism is the picture of death, burial and resurrection, so here baptism pictures the change that had already taken place when Paul surrendered to Jesus on the way (Act 22:10).

Baptism here pictures the washing away of sins by the blood of Christ. Robertson, Word Pictures of the New Testament.” Professor of Greek at the Moody Bible Institute.

Professor Robertson, being a Baptist, was convinced that you were saved at the point of belief.

If the change had already taken place (“baptism pictures the change that had already taken place”) and Paul was forgiven of his sins, Paul would have had no sins to be washed away!

Professor Robertson goes on to say, “ Baptism here pictures the washing away of sins by the blood of Christ.” The question must be asked. Is Paul still stained with his sins or have they already been forgiven?

If Paul has no sins, the baptism does absolutely nothing! On the other hand, if he still has his sins he needs to respond to the question “What are you waiting for?” He needs to “Get up and be baptized and wash away your sins.”

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What a mess by a person with a Ph.D.,
who is trying to justify the doctrine of
his denomination.

When you study you need to do it
systematically.

Some folks open to a page and put a finger down and then try to figure out what God is telling them. If they don't understand, they try the same thing again.

Mt 27:5 ... and he went away and
hanged himself.

Lk 10:37 ... And Jesus said to
him, "Go and do the same."

Instead of being like Professor
Robertson and trying to prove
your point by the Bible, search the
Scriptures to know what the Bible
says.

As we study systematically on
baptism, we notice a change

Mt 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

This is a change from the Law of
Moses. Jesus now has all
authority.

Mt 28:19 "Go therefore and
make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of the
Father and the Son and the Holy
Spirit,

What did his disciples do?

Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" (38) And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

They preached exactly what Jesus
told them to!

As we continue studying, we find
the hearers did what the apostles
preached.

Act 2:41 So then, those who had
received his word were baptized;
and there were added that day
about three thousand souls.

As we continue our study we find others preaching and when they do, they preach what Jesus told them to do.

Baptizing those that believe – not leaving them unbaptized!

Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. (13)

And even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip; and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

Act 8:36 And as they went along
the road they came to some water;
and the eunuch said, "Look!
Water! What prevents me from
being baptized?"

When we finish our study and come
to the last usage of baptism in the
New Testament in the way our books
are arranged we find – 1Pe 3:21

And corresponding to that,
baptism now saves you--not the
removal of dirt from the flesh, but
an appeal to God for a good
conscience--through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ,

The message is constant
throughout the New Testament.
Baptism, commanded by Jesus, is
for the remission of sins, washes
our sins away and saves us.

We have to lack diligence to fail
to understand this simple New
Testament truth.

How could A.T. Robertson, a
brilliant scholar, miss this truth.
He was blinded by his desire –
“in my opinion.”

We have to be careful in our study
that we are not seeking to justify
“our opinion” as it will lead us
away from the truth of God’s
word.

We need to keep God's word in
context.

What is he talking about?

A young lady once told me, “You can prove anything by the Bible.”

I denied it and she said, The Bible condemns cutting down trees.”

I denied it and she quoted, “What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

Now she didn't come up with that on her own. Someone had used it to deny “proof texts” to establish doctrine. Don't let someone make fun of a passage when they can't explain it!

If you can't reconcile a passage to
your doctrine, your doctrine
needs to be changed to fit the
passage.

And you can't stop at just one
passage.

Jn 3:16 "For God so loved the
world, that He gave His only
begotten Son, that whoever
believes in Him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

That's not the end of the
discussion.

Jn 3:36 "He who believes in the
Son has eternal life; but he who
does not obey the Son shall not
see life, but the wrath of God
abides on him."

Have you studied God's word?

Are you willing to obey the Son?

Jn 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."