
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Can everything be proven by the Bible?**

Some say, "You can prove everything from the Bible." Is this true?

The answer is simply: NO. Not everything can be proven by the Bible.

What are some things that cannot be proven from the Bible?

When people say, "*You can prove everything by the Bible,*" what they really mean is, there are so many different churches and preachers and they all claim their preaching from the Bible, yet they're all different. Each church and each preacher says they're right and everyone else is wrong. In view of all this confusion, many just throw up their hands in despair and conclude, "*You can prove everything by the Bible.*"

This is why religious division is wrong and sinful. It discourages many people from taking the Bible seriously. It causes many to conclude that the Bible did not come from God if it actually teaches such contradictory and confusing doctrines as all the denominations teach.

Jesus prayed for unity among His believers (Jn 17:21). The apostles commanded unity (1 Cor 1:10). The Bible plainly condemns heretics who would divide the church of Christ (Rom 16:17-18).

HOW CAN ANYTHING BE PROVEN?

Let us begin by asking, "*How can anything be proven by the Bible?*" There are several things necessary in order to prove anything by the Bible.

(1) Because the words of both good men and evil men are recorded in the Bible, when we prove something we need to check and make sure a good man said it.

Did you realize that the words of the Devil himself are recorded in the Bible? (cf. Mt 4:1-11). You can't prove anything by what he said, nor by what any of his helpers said, because he is a liar and the father of lies (Jn 8:44).

(2) Because the words of both inspired men and uninspired men are recorded in the Bible, when we prove something we need to check and make sure an inspired man said it.

Apollos was a good man and he was preaching in the best way that he knew how, but he was mistaken and had to be corrected (Acts 18:24-28).

The twelve apostles were good men, but before they were filled with the Holy Spirit and guided directly in what they said, they were often mistaken in words which they spoke. Matthew 16:21-23 is a good example of this happening. But after the apostles were filled with the Spirit and guided directly by God, they did not make mistakes in what they wrote or said (Jn 16:13). We may, then, prove something from the Bible when an inspired man spoke on some topic.

(3) Because the Bible is a book containing both poetry and prose, we need to check carefully what we are reading before we attempt to prove something.

For example, in the book of Psalms you can read about trees clapping their hands and mountains praising God. When you remember that Psalms is a book of poetry and not intended to be taken literally on every point there is no problem. In Psalms 51:5 a man in deep depression and anguish of spirit declares that he is so rotten that he believes he was a sinner from birth, we must be careful not to be very literal with such poetic passages.

On the other hand, some books are written in prose. They are to be understood literally, not figuratively. When Genesis chapter 1 says, for example, that the heavens and earth and everything in them were created in six days, we must take it for what it says. We are not free to take a book of prose and begin saying, "*Those days were not literal days; they were long epochs of time, perhaps millions of years each.*" Remember: Prose is to be taken literally, poetry figuratively.

(4) Because the Bible was all written under the oversight of God, we must try our best to harmonize passages before we attempt to prove something.

If a man says one thing sometimes and something else at other times, what are we saying about that individual? Are we not calling him a liar? What, then, are we calling God when we say, "*He says one thing to you, but another thing to me*"? Are we not calling Him a liar? If God

said one thing in the book of Romans, but something else in the book of Acts, would He not be a liar?

We must, then, be very careful when trying to prove something by the Bible. We must make sure we do not interpret a passage in such a way so as to contradict what God said in other passages.

For example, when we read in Galatians 3:28 that there is "*neither male, nor female*" in Christ Jesus, we must be careful not to interpret this beyond what other passages in the Bible say about men and women. If the Lord did not recognize any difference between men and women at any time, then homosexuality would not be wrong, but passages like 1 Cor 6:9-10 make it very plain the Lord does recognize a distinction between the sexes in some matters. Again, if the Lord did not recognize any difference between the sexes, it would not be wrong for women to preach, but passages like 1 Cor 14:34-35 make it plain the Lord does recognize a distinction between the sexes in such matters. Galatians 3:28 is speaking about salvation. When it comes to being saved, there is no difference between the sexes. Women have the same privilege and the same process to go thru in getting saved that men have.

SOME THINGS YOU CANNOT PROVE

There are other things that should be taken into consideration, but before our time runs out, let me tell you about a few popular ideas, which many people have, that cannot be proven by the Bible.

- (1) It cannot be proven that salvation is by faith only, because Ja 2:24 expressly says salvation is "*not by faith only.*"
- (2) It cannot be proven that baptism in water is not necessary for salvation, because Mk 16:16 expressly says, "*He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.*"
- (3) It cannot be proven from the Bible that miracles are still possible today, because 1 Cor 13:8-13 explicitly states miracles would cease when God's word was perfected or completely revealed.
- (4) It cannot be proven that the church is unnecessary for salvation, because Acts 20:28 says Jesus died for the church and He certainly did not die for something that was unnecessary.

(5) It cannot be proven that a manmade denomination is just as good as the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Mere mortal men cannot create and fashion their own churches and produce something that is just as good as the church of Christ. But how do we know the church of Christ when we see it?

1 John 2:3-5

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

If a church claims to be the church of Christ, but it is not keeping the Lord's commandments exactly as the Lord gave them, you may rest assured that such a church is not the church of Christ. To truly be the church of Christ a church must be obedient to everything which Christ commands!

These are just a few of the things which need to be taken into consideration when someone says, *"You can prove everything by the Bible."*