
BIBLE TALK

This week we are investigating this question: **Does the Bible teach by implication?**

(This is the second part in a series. If you missed the first part, please go to our website to listen to them and download the notes.)

Last week we noticed there are two ways God teaches us in the Bible: (a) **by explicit statements** and (b) **by implicit statements**.

- **Explicit** – means "*word for word*." An explicit statement means a Bible statement that is made plainly – word for word; no vagueness.
- **Implicit** – means reasoning has to be used. Implication means there is a relationship between two statements so that if one statement is true, the other is also true.

Implication requires human reasoning, but we noticed that God created man with the ability to reason and He expects man to reason correctly and draw correct conclusions.

Isalah 1:18

18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, ...

Here God Himself is asking man to use the reasoning abilities which he was created with and man is expected to learn the truth by using these reasoning abilities.

Last week we gave some examples of implication. We demonstrated that a passage or a series of passages can be linked together and imply a conclusion that is obviously true.

In our study today, let me give you an illustration where one fact does not imply another. Listen to this passage:

Acts 2:4

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now listen to this next passage:

Acts 2:13

13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

Here is an example of one statement not implying the second statement. In other words, just because the apostles were speaking in new languages, this does not imply they were therefore drunk with new wine.

So what, then, is implication? What does it mean when we say "one statement implies another statement"?

One statement implies another statement when it is impossible for the first statement to be true and the second statement to be false. (Take your time and think about that.)

If this guaranteed connection is absent, then there is no implication.

A preacher on the radio was speaking about a certain passage in Genesis and he said this about the passage, "it solidly implies that, though not with certainty." This preacher does not understand what implication is. Necessity, guarantee, and certain connection is built into implication. If something is implied, it is guaranteed to be true. If something is implied, it is necessarily true. If it is not necessarily true, then it was not implied.

SUMMARY AND EXHORTATION

If a person claims the Bible teaches a particular point, it will have to be taught either explicitly or implicitly or both ways.

If a person claims the Bible teaches something explicitly, then (for this claim to be true) he must be able to produce a Bible passage that says what he says – word for word. As independent thinkers, let us examine such passages – paying attention to the Biblical context. If such a passage is produced, then believe the statement.

If a person claims the Bible teaches something implicitly, then (for this claim to be true) there must be a Bible passage or a combination of passages which cannot be true and the claimed statement false. As independent thinkers, let us look for such a passage or combination of passages, paying attention to the Biblical context. If such a passage or passages are there, believe the statement. As independent thinkers, let us test every such claim humans make.

Acts 17:11

11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

1 Thessalonians 5:21

21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

1 John 4:1

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on *Bible Talk*.