

# Equipping The Saints

“...For the equipping of the saints for the work of service...” ~ Ephesians 4:12

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## Traffic Signs & Authority

(By Spencer Blackwelder)

All of us are familiar with the myriad of traffic signs that guide us and protect us as we travel through our lands. What if folks obeyed traffic laws in the same way that we obey Scripture? It would be chaos on the streets, even more that what we have now. It seems to me that this is exactly what is going on in the religious world, chaos.

First, let's imagine how driving might look if there were no traffic signs at all. No laws or instructions about how to drive. Everyone would do whatever was right in their own eyes. Without traffic laws (& signs), each driver could drive their car any way and anywhere they saw fit (Judges 17:6).

In the early days of driving, this was exactly the case. Without a guide, there's confusion. In August of 1896, Bridget Driscoll is the first person to die in a petrol-engine car accident, and the first pedestrian victim of an automobile accident in the United Kingdom. As she crossed the grounds of the Crystal Palace in London, she was struck by an automobile.

**Let's take a look at a common sign and interpret it according to modern day Hermeneutics.** This is a “*One Way*” sign and the arrow indicates the direction. If we were to use modern bible interpretation, we might think this sign is offering

options. We might say, *“it doesn’t say I can’t go left.”* Of course that is ridiculous. This sign allows traffic to go in *only one direction*. Let’s look at a biblical example, the example of marriage. In Mark 10:7, Jesus said, **“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife.”** According to this text and others, Ephesians 5:31, scriptural marriage is between a man and a woman with no other options allowed. When God states specifically what He wants, it eliminates all other options.



In another example, disciples came together **“upon the first day of the week to break bread”** (Acts 20:7). The specific direction is **“upon the first day of the week”** and **“to break bread.”** Modernists interpret this passage to allow for semi-annual or quarterly observances of the Lord’s supper. They say, *“we can observe the Lord’s Supper once a year, or once a month because it never tells us how often.”* We never use this logic anywhere else in our lives. If your employer tells you that payday is on Friday, will you allow him to pay you once a year as long as it’s on a Friday?

Continuing on with another example, let’s see if their logic works regarding evangelism. The Bible says, **“Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ”** (2 Thessalonians 2:14). Under modern interpretation standards, we could call people with a carnival, a concert, games or a BBQ supper. It appears to be working for

their buildings are full of people **“Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things”** (Philippians 3:19).

**Last one.** This is a stop sign. It means stop. It means nothing else. Jesus said, **“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”** (Luke 13:5). Once again, denominations are telling you that you don’t actually need to *“stop”* sinning in order to be saved. Years ago, I ran a stop sign and had the front end of my VW Rabbit removed. You see, when we fail to stop, we cause all sorts of problems, and sometimes, people get hurt.



When speaking with people about these concepts, you can use these types of examples to help your neighbor to see the truth. In order for these to be effective, you need to remember to preach Jesus (Acts 8:35).

## **“Give Attention to Reading”** (By Andrew Dow)

In a letter in which Timothy is encouraged to be aware of and combat false teaching, Paul writes these words, **“give attention to the *public reading of Scripture*”** (1 Timothy 4:13, NASB). Although the New American Standard Bible supplies the word **“public”** due to the context, it is not in the greek. In this instance, the New King James Version is more literal—**“give attention to reading.”** However, the point largely remains the same: *to guard against false teaching, read the truth!*

The same is true for you and me. When God foretold the New Covenant through Jeremiah he said, **“I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts... No more shall every man teach his neighbor... for they all shall know Me”** (31:33-34). This is not a promise to miraculously infuse us with knowledge, but rather its a description of the New Covenant people. New Covenant people are those who internalize His Word. This only happens when we **“give attention to reading.”**

When was the last time you read the Bible? I don't mean reading it along with a sermon. I don't even mean reading it preparation for a Bible class. I mean taking time out of your day to sit and meditate on the mind of God! If you're not giving attention to reading, are you truly apart of the New Covenant? If you're not learning from Christ, are you truly His disciple?

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#### **AM Lesson:**

*Leprosy:  
A Disease & Its Cure*

#### **PM Lesson:**

*Making a Difference:  
Peter*

*“Go therefore and make disciples...” (Matthew 28:19-20)*