



Why Do We Have Religious Differences?

Ephesians 3:3-5

A lit candle sits on an open book, casting a warm glow. The text "I. The Bible Is Not A Law Book" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**I. The Bible Is Not A
Law Book**

A. A Collection of Letters

- One must go to three of the four gospels to get the complete story of Jesus' arrest
 - A disciple cut off the high priest's servant's ear *Matt.26:51* and *Mk.14:47*
 - Jesus heals the servant's ear *Lk.22:47-51*
 - Peter cut off Malchus' right ear *Jn.18:10*
 - Peter cut off the high priest's servant Malchus' right ear and Jesus heals him

A. A Collection of Letters

B. Don't Pit Passages Against Each Other

- Look at the “contradictions” between Paul’s writings *Rom.4:1-4* and *Jas.2:20-24*

1 What then shall we say that **Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?**

2 For if Abraham was justified by works, **he has something to boast about**, but not before God.

- He believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness *Rom.4:3*

A. A Collection of Letters

B. Don't Pit Passages Against Each Other

- Look at the “contradictions” between Paul’s writings *Rom.4:1-4* and *Jas.2:20-24*

21 Was not Abraham our father **justified by works** when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?

22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, **and by works faith was made perfect?**

Jas.2

- Abraham never thought of earning his salvation but always obeyed *Heb.11:17-19*

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person's right hand is visible, with the index finger pointing to a specific passage on the left page. The Bible is open to a page with a large, decorative initial letter 'A' at the top of a column. The text is arranged in two columns per page. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the paper and the person's skin. The background is dark and out of focus.

II. The Bible Is Not Meant To Prove Everything

A. One Can Prove Anything From The Bible

- **Some see the Bible as a Mystical book that very few can see it alike!**
 - **Paul tells Timothy to study to please God by “rightly dividing” His Word *2 Tim.2:15***
 - **The Ephesians were taught that they must understand God’s Word *Eph.5:17***
 - **Having a different interpretation doesn’t prove one is right *2 Pet.2:1-3***

A. One Can Prove Anything From The Bible

B. Attitude Determines Right Understanding

- When one wants to get a certain answer from scripture they often get it *Num.22:7-32*

11 And for this reason God will send them **strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,**

12 That they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth **but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

2 Thess.2

- Our Lord shows the proper way in rightly dividing God's Word *Matt.4:1-11*



III. Written For Various Levels of Maturity

A. Saints Must First Learn The Basics

- **To many saints want to go deeper in Bible study than they can fathom / *Cor.3:1-3***
 - **Saints are to grow from drinking spiritual milk to eating spiritual meat *Heb.5:12-14***
 - **People must be grounded in the basics to understand the harder issues *2 Pet.3:16***
 - **Preconceived ideas can also block people from seeing the whole truth *Jn.16:12***

A. Saints Must First Learn The Basics

B. Remind Themselves of 1st Principles

- Peter says he will constantly remind saints of truth they already know *2 Pet.1:12-15*

- If we don't keep giving "earnest" heed to what we've heard we will fall away *Heb.2:1*

- Brethren must also patiently teach and remind the weak and struggling *Rom.15:1*

- Unite over the basic issues and work together on the difficult matters *Col.2:19*



**IV. The Bible Is Verbally
Inspired**

A. Did God Give Divine Writers Concepts?

- Did inspired writers get general ideas that they put into their own words? *2 Tim.1:13*

13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. *2 Tim.1*

- Paul told the Corinthians that he taught the same Truth in every church / *Cor.4:17*
- Imagine how confusing it would be if Paul wrote conflicting things / *Cor.14:33*

A. Did God Give Divine Writers Concepts?

B. God Gives Men His Loving Words

- Too many try to interpret scripture based on God's loving nature / *Cor.2:13*

13 These things we also speak, **not in words which man's wisdom teaches** but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. */ Cor.2*

- God's wisdom surpasses all wisdom and we will stand based on its words *2 Cor.5:10*

A close-up photograph of an open Bible with a person's hand resting on the pages. The text is overlaid on the image.

Make Your Faith Your Own

For we **walk by faith**, not by sight *2 Cor.5:7*

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and **hearing by the word of God** *Rom.10:17*