

As We Hear Scripture, Let Us Understand
(Matthew 15:10)

Introduction:

1. Romans 10:17 is a verse that stresses the importance of hearing the Scriptures [faith is developed as a result of hearing God's Word].
2. However, simply hearing God's Word is not sufficient -- we learn from other passages that Scripture must be heard correctly.
3. In this regard Jesus gave a warning in Matthew 15:10 when He said, "*Hear, and understand.*"
4. To hear and understand we must know how the Bible teaches.
5. In our lesson we are pointing out 4 principles that will help us to hear Scripture and understand it.

Discussion:

- I. FIRST, THE SCRIPTURES TEACH BY "DIRECT COMMANDS"
 - A. Direct commands are instructions that God has revealed in a direct manner.
 - B. Direct commands may be grouped into two categories.
 1. One category consists of "general commands."
 - a. In general commands we are told what to do, but we are not told exactly how to do it.
 - b. Example: the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).
 2. The other category consists of "specific commands."
 - a. In specific commands we are told what to do, and we are told how to do it.
 - b. Examples:
 - 1) Genesis 6:14
 - 2) Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16
- II. SECOND, THE SCRIPTURES TEACH BY "PRINCIPLES"
 - A. Many subjects or issues are not specifically addressed in the Bible; however, the Bible reveals a number of principles that will settle any issue that may arise in any culture at any time.
 - B. Examples:
 1. Jesus presented a far-reaching principle when He said that His followers must seek God's kingdom first (Matthew 6:33).
 2. Many issues can be settled by the principles revealed in Romans 12:1-2.
- III. THIRD, THE SCRIPTURES TEACH BY "EXAMPLES"
 - A. An example is a "pattern" that is revealed in the Bible.
 - B. Example: We learn when the Lord's Supper is to be observed from the example revealed in Acts 20:7.
- IV. FOURTH, WHEN STUDYING THE BIBLE WE MUST OBSERVE "THE SILENCE OF SCRIPTURE"
 - A. Both the Old and New Testaments teach that God has given us everything we need to know (Deuteronomy 29:29; 2 Peter 1:3).
 - B. However, just because some practice is not specifically condemned in the Bible does not mean that we may participate in it (Leviticus 10:1-3; Hebrews 7:11-14).
 - C. We need to be concerned with doing that which the Lord has instructed us to do in His Word (Colossians 3:16-17).

Conclusion:

1. We have covered 4 important principles that relate to hearing and reading Scripture.
2. By applying these principles when we study the Scriptures we can hear and understand as Jesus commanded in Matthew 15:10.