

Let Us Hear and Understand  
(Matthew 15:10)

Introduction:

1. According to Romans 10:17, faith is developed as a result of hearing God's Word.
2. We learn from other passages that God's Word must be heard correctly.
3. In this regard Jesus said in Matthew 15:10, "*Hear, and understand.*"
4. The eunuch of Ethiopia illustrates how a person can read Scripture without understanding it (Acts 8:26-31).
5. To hear and understand we must know how the Bible teaches.
6. In our lesson we are concentrating on 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. A noble request is made in Psalm 119:18.
2. By applying these principles when we study the Scriptures we can hear and understand as Jesus commanded in Matthew 15:10.