

What Is Written In the Scriptures: HOW Readest Thou?

–Sermon by Asaolu O.S (asaolu@yahoo.com) @ coC UNILAG on 30th Sept 2018

Luke 10:25 *And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? 26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? 27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. 28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. 29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? ...36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? 37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.*

INTRO: Many statements, suppositions and questions arise because HOW people read the Bible NOT because of WHAT they read! E.g. statements such as:

1. Cleaningness is next to godliness,
2. Heaven help those who help themselves,
3. Woe unto he who is not sent and delivers a message and woe unto him who is sent but does not deliver it,
4. If God did it before He will do it again for we serve an unchanging God,

Such people unfortunately read their minds INTO scripture NOT God's mind FROM scripture. In an online discussion, I reproduced a Bible statement and someone responded: "*finish the quotation naa.*" He proceeded to add something NOT in the text because he had **conflated** what I quoted with another passage. So many people including some Preachers of coC, are mistaken on many Topics because of their lack of knowledge of the OT and over-familiarity with the NT. Not knowing the scriptures or nature of God cause their misunderstandings.

To Sadducees... **Mark 12:24** *And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?*

To the chief priests and the elders... **Matthew 21:42** *Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?*

To Disciples... **Luke 24:27** *And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself... 32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? ...45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,*

To the Jews... John 5:39 *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

To the Jews and Gentiles... **Acts 17:2** *And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, ...11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*

The proper way to read the scriptures is

1. Acknowledge the documentation and prophet's message as inspired (2 Pet 1:20-21) not every detail therein is necessarily approved for our practice today-Heb 8
2. With an open mind and expectation to understand the revealed will of God –Eph 3:4
3. To know each verse is a bit of the big picture or puzzle (**Acts 8:30-36**), a segment of the a whole (Isa 28:10) hence we must study to rightly divide for God's approval NOT man's -2Tim 2:15
4. To know even the OT it is for learning and comfort (Rm 15:4) and all scripture is profitable for our completeness -2 Tim 3:15-17
5. To know it is spirit & life, living and active and able to transform and uphold us –Jn 6:63, Heb 1:3; 4:12