

## Scriptures - cont.

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We must also consider that the Bible is not a codified textbook on salvation. As such, much of it is written in historical, narrative style. The historical narrative explains what is being commanded in a particular verse. A verse is given a context to help explain what is in the verse. So, you have to read all around the verse to get the big picture of what is being said.

God revealed his will to fit an occasion, not a catechism. God also revealed his will little by little so that it can be comprehended (Isaiah 28:9-13; Mark 4:33; 1 Corinthians 3:2; Hebrews 5:11).

Repetition shows the necessity of following the pattern (1 Cor. 4:17). Reminders help one to learn truth (2 Pet. 1:12-13; Jude 5)

God does not do all the thinking for us. He does not “spoon-feed” us. He wants us to use our minds to think (Romans 2:1-2).

The noble Bereans were examining the scriptures (plural). They did the work and it paid off. They kept their minds open, their “Bibles” open, and their schedules open. Let’s all do the same today. - *Chris Reeves*

## - Thought of the Week -

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I am going to die one day and I need to pass on the good things that God has given me to others before that day comes. God has given me knowledge of his word and I need to pass that on. God has given me wisdom to navigate life and I need to pass that on. God has given me talents and I need to pass them on. As a parent, a grandparent, a Christian, a preacher, an elder, etc., I need to see myself as a mentor who is passing on the good to the next generation. I will mentor this week.

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# THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

*And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who when they were come thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the scriptures daily, whether these things were so. Many of them therefore believed; also of the Greek women of honorable estate, and of men, not a few.  
- Acts 17:10-12 -*

When Paul came to Berea in Acts 17, he went into the synagogue like he had done in other places and he preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Jews. Sometime during his sermon, or after, the audience members were examining the scriptures. As a result, they believed and obeyed the gospel. Did you notice in this passages that the people were examining the scriptures, plural? It was not just one scripture they looked at, but many. This is the subject of our article.

The question of the plan of salvation found throughout the scriptures usually comes up in a discussion with our religious friends. Why are there many scriptures that present the plan of salvation and not just one scripture? Why is the whole plan of salvation not

given in just one verse? This a good question. So, what is God's plan?

## God's Plan of Salvation

- I must hear New Testament gospel (Acts 15:7; Romans 10:17; etc.).
- I must believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God (John 8:24; Acts 16:31; etc.).
- I must repent of my sins (Lk. 13:5; Acts 17:30-31; etc.)
- I must confess that Jesus is the Christ (Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:9-10; etc.)
- I must be immersed (baptized) in water for the remission of my sins (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; etc.)
- I must live faithfully for the Lord each day (Romans 6:3-5; Revelation 17:14; etc.)

## Why So Many Scriptures?

Did you notice the different scriptures above? Did you notice that God's plan of salvation is not found in just one scripture, but in different scriptures and in different parts of the New Testament.? Why is that? Let's consider a few reasons for that.

First, God wants us to search in order to find his plan. He wants us to put forth an effort to be saved. Those who do not want to seek and search will be kept out of the kingdom (Proverbs 2:4; Matthew 7:7-8; 13:44-46; Lk. 13:24).

Second, God wants to see what kind of mindset you have. Are you spiritually-minded? Those who are not spiritually-minded and not interested will be kept out of the kingdom (Matthew 5:6; 13:10-17; 1 Corinthians 2:14-15).

Third, God wants to know how much you are willing to sacrifice for him. Those who have a bare-minimum-approach to life will be kept out of the kingdom (Matthew 25:14-30).

Fourth, God wants you to know that there are other matters addressed in the scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16-17). There are other obligations besides the immediate plan of salvation (Matthew 23:23; 28:20). For example, there are duties in the church, duties in the home, and duties in the country. We have to study all the scriptures applying to these duties and more. It is God's will that we study all of his word to find truth (Psalm 119:160).