

The Error of Oversimplification

Study by Tim Haile

The Error of Oversimplification

- ◆ Bible Teachers Should Always Try To Explain The Scriptures In A Clear & Understandable Way (**Nehemiah 8:8; 2 Cor. 3:12; Mk. 12:37**)
- ◆ Simplicity Is Good — “Oversimplification” Is Bad / It “Twists” Scripture (**2 Pet. 3:16**)
- ◆ Oversimplification Is Simplifying A Thing To The Point Of Error / Misrepresentation
- ◆ Vital Information Often Subtracted (**Deut. 4:2**)
- ◆ Not ALL Scriptures Are “Easy” To Understand, Thus Are Easily Misused (**2 Peter 3:16**)

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- ◆ Ironically, Even The Bible Verse That Speaks Of “Simplicity” Is Itself Oversimplified!
- ◆ **2 Corinthians 11:3** - *“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”* (KJV)
 - ◆ Often Cited As Proof Of The “Simplicity” Of The Scriptures
 - ◆ The Greek Word *haplotēs* Actually Means Sincere and Pure (Single-Minded) Devotion

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- ◆ **Jeremiah 29:11** - *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”* (ESV, KJV - “thoughts”)
- ◆ **By Ignoring The Context & Making Direct Application To Their Own Personal Lives, Many Religionists (incl. many Christians) Conclude That God Is Directly And Miraculously Intervening In Their Lives:**
- ◆ **They Interpret Various Life Events And Attribute Them To God (as revelations)**

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- ◆ **Jeremiah 29:11** - *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”* (ESV, KJV - “thoughts”)
 - ◆ **By Reading Merely The Previous Verse (10) One Sees That God Is Speaking Of The Jewish Return From Captivity**
 - ◆ **Reality Is That God’s “Plans” For One Person Are His Plans For Others! (Obey & Serve God, Live Righteously & Godly — Acts 2:38; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 1:14, 22)**

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- ◆ **Romans 8:28** - *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose,”* (KJV)
 - ◆ By Ignoring The Larger Context, This Verse Is Often Cited As A Basis Of Alleged Miraculous Interventions By God (open parking spaces, vehicle accidents)
 - ◆ Romans Is Speaking Of The Roles & Functions Of God & Man In The Scheme Of Human Redemption (**see v. 29**)

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- ◆ **John 3:16** - *“For God so love the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*
- ◆ From Their cursory Reading, Multiple Millions Of Denominationalists And Evangelicals Conclude From This Verse “Salvation By Faith Alone,” And Cite It As Exclusive Proof Of Their Conclusion
- ◆ BUT See - **John 3:3-5, 21, 36; Matt. 7:21; Rom. 2:8; Gal. 3:1; 2 Thess. 1:8; Acts 2..etc**

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- ◆ **Ephesians 2:8, 9** - *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest anyone should boast.”*
- ◆ From Their cursory reading, multiple millions of denominationalists and evangelicals conclude from this passage that salvation is the result of grace & faith “alone” (btw... can’t be each “alone”)
- ◆ BUT See - **Ephesians 2:10; Acts 10:35; 26:20; Rom. 2:13; James 2:14-26**

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- ◆ **Romans 5:1** - *“Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- ◆ From Their cursory reading, many people conclude from this passage that salvation is the result of faith “alone”
- ◆ BUT the word “alone” is neither stated nor implied in the text
- ◆ The word “therefore” establishes a contrast between Mosaic Law and Christ’s Law (**Rom. 4:13-16 + Rom. 8:2**)

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- ◆ **Matthew 7:1** - *“Judge not, that you be not judged.”*
- ◆ From Their cursory Reading, Multiple Millions Of People (incl. Christians) Conclude From This Passage That One Should Never Condemn Sin Or Error
- ◆ But The Context Addresses Hypocritical Judging! (**vs. 1-5; Cp. Rom. 2:1**)
- ◆ See - **Matt. 23** (Jesus Condemned False Practices And Doctrines); **Rom. 16:17; Eph. 5:11; 2 Tim. 4:2; Tit. 3:10, 11; 2 John 10**

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- ◆ **1 Cor. 1:17** - *“For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with the wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.”*
- ◆ From Their cursory reading, many people conclude from this passage that baptism is not a requirement for salvation
- ◆ But Paul uses a figure of speech called ellipsis (additional words understood from context) - (*“not to baptize only, but also...”*)
- ◆ See - **John 6:27; 12:44; 1 Cor. 15:53-55**

The Error of Oversimplification

- ◆ **Psalm 100:1** - *“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!”*
- ◆ Combined With Other Old Testament Passages Like **Psalm 147:7; 149:3; 150:3**, This Passage Appears To Authorize Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship To God Today
- ◆ But We Are Not Under O.T. Law (**2 Cor. 3:13, 14; Gal. 5:4; Eph. 2:14; Col. 2:14; Heb. 7**)
- ◆ And The N.T. Authorizes **Singing** In Worship (**Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12**)

The Error of Oversimplification

- ◆ **Matthew 18:20** - *“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”*
- ◆ From Their cursory Reading, Many People (incl. Christians) Conclude From This Passage That One Can Form Temporary, Provisional Lord’s Supper Assemblies
- ◆ But The Context Addresses *Revelation By Apostles!* (See **Matt. 18:18*-20**)
- ◆ The Lord’s Supper Was Observed In Established Churches (**Acts 20:7; 1 Co.11**)

The Error of Oversimplification

- ◆ **Acts 5:32** - *“And we are witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”*
- ◆ From Their cursory Reading, Many People (incl. Christians) Conclude From This Passage That The Holy Spirit *Miraculously & Directly* Indwells The Christian
- ◆ But The Context *Deals With The Apostles!*
 - Acts 5:29** - Peter and the apostles
 - Acts 5:30, 32** - *“Witnesses”* of the resurrection (see also **Acts 1:8; 2:32; 3:15**)

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- ◆ **1 Cor. 6:19** - *“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own.”*
- ◆ From Their cursory reading, many people (incl. Christians) conclude from this passage that the Holy Spirit *miraculously & directly* indwells the Christian
- ◆ But other passages show *HOW* the Spirit indwells (**Eph. 5:18-19 + Col. 3:16; Jn. 6:63; Jn. 16:8 + Acts 2:37; Acts 7:51 + 52-54**)

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- ◆ **Romans 8:11** - *“But if the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”*
- ◆ From Their cursory reading, many people (incl. Christians) conclude from this passage that the Holy Spirit *Miraculously & Directly* indwells the Christian
- ◆ This ignores the context (**Romans 8:14-16 + 1-2 = The Spirit’s Guidance By “LAW”**)

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- ◆ **Matthew 27:46** - *“And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ That is, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?’”*
- ◆ From Their cursory reading, many people (incl. Christians) conclude from this passage that Jesus was forsaken by the Father
- ◆ But Jesus was directing attention to **Psalm 22:1 (to remind/teach the people that the Psalm was being fulfilled before them)**

The Error of Oversimplification

- ◆ **Matthew 19:9 (esp. part B)** - *“And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.”*
- ◆ **Part B Cited As Proof That The Consequences Of Fornication Are Negated By A Fast Acting Fornicator Or Judge**
- ◆ **This Conclusion Is Simplistic, For It Ignores The God-Given Right In Part A!**