God's Word is Like a Jigsaw Puzzle!



Have you ever put together a JIGSAW PUZZLE? You know, one of those interlocking puzzles? I am quite sure that most of us have. Now have you ever tried putting together a jigsaw puzzle where several pieces of the puzzle were missing? Again, most have done this as well. How about putting together a jigsaw puzzle where the pieces that were placed in a box did NOT have the right or correct PICTURE on the box...

First, as we begin to piece the Word of God together, the Words that paint in a breath-taking landscape a ***true picture*** of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Plan for mankind, let's begin with an Opening Prayer... Heavenly Father, you know the desire and the intent of our hearts; teach us your ways that we may walk in them in all pleasing to you. Search our hearts O' God, and any iniquity in us, I ask you to cleanse us now and make us whole. Reveal to us our secret faults, and help us to understand the error of our ways. May the words of our mouth and the meditation of our hearts always be acceptable in your sight O' Lord for you are our strength and our redeemer.

From your word O' Lord we know that there are many evil seducers and deceivers in the world on every side, not only on the outside of the church, but within the church as well. And as the day of the return of your Son, Jesus, draws closer these deceptions and deceivers will increase and grow even worse. Therefore, we ask you now Father to give us wisdom to discern and to know the difference between these deceiving doctrines of devils and these false teachings compared to your word of truth. May this distinction between truth and error be to us as distinguishable as the bright light of the day is to the darkness of the night.

I pray that your Holy Spirit will immediately bear witness with our spirit whether the things we hear or the things we read as being either truth or error. Help us to always know the difference between truth and error. Father we thank you right now that from this day forward that this witness from the Holy Spirit will bear witness with our spirit to everything that we read or hear that we will know in an instant as to whether it is truth or error. And we also pray that which we have already been taught will be made known to us whether it be truth or error. Our hearts cry out to you to know the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. We desire only to know and teach your pure undefiled word of truth, for your words are pure words O' Lord.

Heavenly Father we pray that everything that we have learned from the time that we were born, and everything that we will learn from this day forward, until the time of your return that is not the truth, that you will make known to us plainly and help us to purge all that is in error from our life. Help us to be that vessel of silver or gold that may be used of you to bring glory and honor unto your Holy name. Help us to renew our mind with your pure and undefiled word of truth so that we may not be conformed to the patterns of this world, but rather that we may proof your word and to know what is your perfect will for our life.

Father, you have given your Holy Spirit to lead and guide us into all truth. Your word is truth, so we lift-up this Bible, your Holy word, before you right now and ask you to teach us your word. Help us to discern truth from error. You said in your word that if we continue in your word that we would know the truth and that the truth would make us free. So, we ask you Father to help us always to continue in your word and seek your kingdom every day.

We thank you Lord for hearing and answering our prayer this day for we know that you are faithful to confirm your word with signs following. Therefore, we know, and we are assured that the evidence of this pray will begin to take place from this moment on. Thank you Father for revealing your word of truth to us in all areas of our life so that we may live in all pleasing to you and help others to come to the knowledge of truth as well.

May all, who hear the teaching of your word of truth, whether your truth comes forth from my lips, or shines forth from the words in which I write, or whether the word of truth comes from any other person, may ALL who hear or read your undefiled word of truth also continue in your word of truth and be found faithful unto the coming day your Son, Jesus Christ.

We now commit our spiritual growth into your hands from this day forward to keep us in your ways for all our days. And Father we know and we are assured from your word that you are able to keep all that we commit unto you until the day of the coming, or return of your Son, our Lord and savior, Jesus the Christ.

Your word assures us that your Son, Jesus, is the author and finisher of our faith. So, we thank you Father for writing your word upon our hearts and upon our minds. Holy Spirit we yield our spirit, our mind and our body to you that you may lead and guide us into all truth. Help us to crucify the flesh and put under our body and to renew our mind with the pure and undefiled word of truth. Holy Spirit help us to keep both our mind and our body pure from any and all fleshly desires, in order that we may walk in obedience to your guidance every day of our life from this day forward.

We thank you for helping us to take heed to all that we hear, whether this hearing is through the ear, or through the eye, or through the feeling and touch. Help us heavenly Father by the leading of your Holy Spirit to guard our hearing in all these areas, so that we may discern your word of truth from any deceitful words of error that would bring harm and hinder our spiritual growth.

We also thank you for teaching us how to hear and to keep our hearts open to learn continually of your ways. We thank you for the hunger you have placed in our heart for your word. Help us to hide your word in our heart that we may not sin against you.

Father as we learn of you and grow in the revelation of your word and faith help us shine as a light to others so that they may also come to the knowledge of truth. May our words always be seasoned with salt and grace so that we will minister to those that hear them and bring glory and honor to your name always.

Father your word says that your people are destroyed for lack of knowledge and that if we reject knowledge, then you will also reject us. So, we ask you now Lord for the wisdom to discern your knowledge of truth to distinguish your truth from the commandments of men and the doctrines of devils, and that we discern your word of truth from any misguided truth and error.

Father help us never to reject you or your words, so that we will be found to be that good and faithful servant at the coming of your Son, Jesus. Help us not to judge a matter before hearing the whole matter and getting all sides of the matter and then help us to judge all matters correctly in your eyes. Help us Lord to judge rightly in all things.

We thank you Lord for hearing all our petitions and granting all our requests in the name of your Son Jesus according to 1 John 5:14,15, which assures us that if we ask anything that is according to your will that you will hear us.

Your word of truth also assures us that if we know that you hear us that we will have the petitions which we have asked of you. This is your written guarantee to us and to ALL who stand upon your word of truth... Amen and Amen.

Think about how confusing it would be trying to look at the ***picture*** on the box while trying to put pieces together that do NOT match or correspond to that picture on the box. You see, your frame of mind to which you are focusing on is the picture on the box that you ***think*** is the ***correct picture***, so you are trying to make the individual pieces of the puzzle fit that picture painted on the box. Now consider this... You have in your possession an unopened sealed box containing ALL the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle.

And on this box, is a ***beautifully painted picture***. You are so excited that you open the box and start to put the puzzle together. Then as you are sorting through the individual pieces of the puzzle you happen to notice these ***individual*** pieces you have just taken out of the box to spread them out and to get a better look at them did not seem to fit the picture painted on the outside of the box. So, you begin to fit more and more individual pieces of the ***puzzle*** together to form a larger section of this puzzle. And then, as you ***take a closer*** look it becomes very clear to you that the pieces of the puzzle are NOT going to FIT the picture painted on the box.

Whereas, my brothers and sisters in Christ, we all have a puzzle to piece together that paints a ***beautiful*** picture of our Lord Jesus Christ placed in a breath-taking landscape of ***God's plan*** for mankind. The ***pieces*** of this puzzle are ***every*** word of God. And NO one word or verse of scripture paints an ***accurate*** and ***complete*** picture that God desires us to see. You see in our Lord Jesus Christ, we ALL have been given the word of God, the Bible, to read for ***ourselves***. But many of us only want to ***look at the pictures*** on the box that ***others*** have painted.

The problem is that all these many different pictures ***conflict*** with each other. We all have the ***very same*** pieces of the ***puzzle***, but the pictures that have been painted ***for us*** do not show or ***reveal*** the ***same picture*** that some other believer show us. So then, ***which picture*** is the ***true picture*** that these pieces of the puzzle are supposed to paint?

Now we all want to ***say*** that the picture ***on our box*** is the ***true picture***. But how do we ***know*** for ***sure***, until we ***open our Bibles*** and read God's word for ***ourselves*** to see if in fact these pictures that have been painted FOR us is the ***true*** and ***complete picture*** that Almighty God desires us to see?

We can NOT know for certain that what we have been taught is in fact the ***truth***, until we search the word of God daily to see if what we have been or are being taught is in fact the ***truth*** of the ***whole word of God***.

Sometimes we get ahead of ourselves and try to say what the picture of the puzzle is ***before*** we get ALL the pieces put together. This is why we have so many different ***viewpoints*** concerning what the ***"Bible says"***.

Now we may try and support or prove what we believe by saying ***"The Bible says"*** ...and then quote a few ***individual*** verses from the word of God that we have ***come to believe*** is the ***truth***, simply because that is what ***we have been taught*** by others. But many of us are just repeating or showing a picture that has been ***handed*** down to us generation after generation.

And just perhaps this picture is a false representation of what the pieces in the box paints for us when they are ***accurately*** pieced together. This is what is meant by RIGHTLY DIVIDING the word of God. It is high time that we all ***open our Bibles*** and begin to piece ALL the verses together for ***ourselves*** and quit focusing on these many ***partially pieced*** together pictures that bring ***confusion*** to the body of Christ.

So, whenever you come across a ***contradiction*** or a point of view that ***opposes*** what you have been ***taught***, get into the word of God and see which one, if either, is the ***truth***. It may be that ***neither***, what you have been taught to believe, OR what this other viewpoint that opposes what you have ***come*** to believe ***is the truth***. Perhaps ***both*** are incorrect.

You will not know what is the truth, until ***you*** yourself search God's word for ***yourself*** to see if you are indeed being ***taught*** the ***truth*** of the ***whole word of God***.

I have found in some instances that there is a ***little truth on both sides*** but neither point of view, being ***alone*** and apart from the ***whole*** word of God, is the ***truth***. This is how the ***enemy deceives*** us, by dangling a ***piece*** of the word of God in front of us, and then misleading us to believe something that the ***whole*** word of God does NOT teach.

In other words, let us search the word of God together and keep that, ***that is the truth***, but lay aside that which does ***not fit the bigger picture*** that the whole word of God only can accurately paint. So then, I want to ask everyone this question, what is it that we can conclude from this analogy of the ***Jigsaw Puzzle***?

First and foremost, quit listening to the ***doctrines of men*** without going to the word of God for ***yourself*** to see if what ***you are being taught*** is in fact the ***truth*** of the ***whole word of God***. You need to ***quit focusing on the picture*** that is on the box that ***someone else*** has painted for you when you are piecing together the word of God.

In other words, we need to ***lay aside*** these pictures or viewpoints of others, because it may very well be that some of the pictures that someone else has painted ***for us*** are ***false doctrines*** and those ***incorrect teaching*** will at the very least, confuse you.

Say to yourself and to God, 'Now I do not know for sure if this teaching is true or not. I have always trusted it to be the truth, ***but now*** I see in your word another piece of the puzzle that seems to contradict with what I have previously been taught. Help me Lord to know ***the truth***, the ***whole truth*** and ***nothing but the truth***.'

Next we need to ***open*** the ***Bible*** for ***ourselves*** and read it. Take the time to put all of these ***loose*** pieces of the ***puzzle together*** to see if they in fact ***match the picture*** that has been painted for you by others. Now as you begin to seek the ***truth*** for yourself continue to pray and ask God for ***wisdom***, and ***then listen*** to the ***Holy Spirit*** as you read and study the word of God.

You do not need that any man teaches you the word of God for he has given us his Holy Spirit to lead and guide us ***into all truth***.

QUESTION... Has anyone ever heard this before that the Holy Spirit will lead us and guide us into all truth? Do you know where this verse is found in the Bible? Do any other verses come to mind that relate to this verse or teach us the same thing but in different words?

Also, I want ***us to know***, if you do not know already, that the Bible does NOT contradict itself!

Therefore, if there ***seems*** to be a contradiction, then it is because of how ***we have interpreted*** what the word of God is ***intending*** to say, but in ***truth*** the ***whole*** word of God truly means something different than what ***some have interpreted*** it to mean. This is ***why*** we need ALL the pieces of the puzzle put together, before the ***true picture*** of what Almighty God intends to say in his word.

How many times have we ourselves said something and have been ***misunderstood*** by others? The ***only way*** for you to clear up all the confusion is by getting those who misunderstood what you were saying to sit down ***long enough*** to ***listen*** to you as you explain what you meant to say.

Now if they are ***not willing*** to ***listen*** to you as you are trying to ***explain*** what you truly meant to say, then they will remain in their ***state of confusion*** and ***misguided belief*** of what you ***truly*** meant to say and ***how*** you ***intended*** to ***be understood*** by others.

The word of Almighty God is the same way... It has been ***misunderstood*** by some and has caused even some to reject it totally because of all the controversy and seemingly contradictory verses. God says in the book of Hosea chapter 4:6 that his people are destroyed for the ***lack of knowledge***, and that if we ***reject knowledge*** then he will also ***reject us***.

But the ***truth*** of the matter is that God ***does not want to reject*** any of us and this is why He gave his Son Jesus to die ***for us*** so that we could be ***cleansed*** from all our sin in order that God could place his ***Holy Spirit in us*** to ***lead and guide us*** into all ***truth***.

Don't be ***deceived*** my brothers and sisters in the Lord, ***open*** that box, ***open*** God's word and ***lay aside*** that picture on the box, that picture of what ***someone else*** has painted for you and start ***putting all*** the pieces of GOD'S WORD together for yourself, until you are ***rooted*** and ***grounded*** in the ***truth*** of the ***whole word of God***.

And the best place to ***start*** putting together ***this Jigsaw Puzzle of God's word*** is first with prayer asking God to give you wisdom and understanding.

Pieces of the Puzzle... Isaiah 28:9-13 "Whom shall he *(Almighty God)* teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? ***Them*** that are ***weaned*** from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. *(Why or How are we weaned from milk and ready for stronger meat of God's word?)*

For *(or in that)* precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; ***here*** a ***little***, and ***there*** a ***little***... For ***with*** stammering lips and another tongue will he *(Almighty God)* speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest where with you may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; ***here*** a ***little***, and ***there*** a ***little***; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and caught."

In other words, Almighty God ***hides*** a ***little here*** and a ***little there***, so that we must ***search*** for all the little pieces of the puzzle that bring together ***the big picture of God's plan***. So then, we cannot build a doctrine on just one verse of scripture. We need to compare scripture with scripture to see what the whole word of God is teaching us.

A question that has been asked before is, the meaning by the word ***"precept"***. The definition of the word *"precept"* from the American Heritage Dictionary means a rule or principle imposing a standard or action of conduct. It is a law or ordinance warning beforehand. Now in this particular passage of scripture this word *"precept"* actually means an utterance which is perhaps described as a syllable that makes no sense, a sound that is even mocked.

So then, when left in the context of where it is found the word *"precept"* is God speaking to believers in what the Bible calls ***utterance***, then it is not ONLY us speaking to God, but ALSO Almighty God speaking to us in our inner man. So, LITTLE by LITTLE, HERE a LITTLE and THERE a LITTLE I saw things in the word that no one taught me, but rather I saw them because God opened my eyes of understanding.



In order for one to arrive at the TRUTH of any matter one must hear the WHOLE MATTER. You have no doubt heard that there are two sides to every story. Well in searching out Bible doctrine in order to find the TRUTH, then one must likewise hear the WHOLE MATTER, that is to say one must hear and weigh all the evidence from ALL sides of any given controversial teaching from God's word.

Proverbs 18:12,13 says it this way, ***"Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility. He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."***

In other words, we must not be haughty or filled with pride and say to ourselves things like, *"Oh I have heard that before and I just don't believe that."* It may be that you have not heard the ***whole matter*** or that you have unknowingly hardened your heart before, and thereby you did not truly ***listen*** to what was being taught to you from the intent of the heart of the one who was doing the teaching.

There are many reasons why we unknowingly reject the TRUTH and become haughty or filled with pride refusing to hear and listen to those who do not believe EXACTLY as we believe.

It may be that they are indeed false teachers, but then again it may be that you yourself have not been taught the WHOLE truth of the WHOLE word of God. So, all that I am saying is to read the WHOLE matter so that you can be sure that you are being taught the TRUTH, the WHOLE truth, and NOTHING but the TRUTH directly from the word of Almighty God himself, because your very reward of eternal life may be at stake. Jesus said in Luke 8:18, *"Take heed HOW you HEAR..."*

Why do you suppose that there are so many different denominations among those of us who are Christians? Well I am convinced that one main reason is that we harden our hearts to the TRUTH by thinking that we already know the truth, and that anything or anyone that teaches otherwise is heresy and is a doctrine of the devil. Therefore, we refuse to hear any other side assuming we already know the truth. Well in some instances, it may be that you, do in fact already know the truth in some areas or perhaps even in many areas, but it may be equally true that you, may have been deceived and may only believe or think you have been taught the truth.

What I am trying to show is that you must HEAR the WHOLE MATTER before you can truly rest assured that you know without a doubt the TRUTH that is based solely upon the word of God and does not rest in the traditions of men. Even our past experiences can deceive us; for example, perhaps you prayed for someone to be healed and they died.

So then, you came to ***believe*** that God only heals some people based upon your personal experience of this person which you prayed for and sincerely believed would be healed, but they then died.

Don't be deceived! ***Base your faith upon the whole word of God!*** If I say anything that is not thoroughly rooted and grounded upon God's word, then move on and don't receive it as the TRUTH. I admonish all, to search out the word of God and prove to yourself that what I speak is the TRUTH. Be like the men in Berea that we read about in Acts 17:11 which searched the scriptures daily to find out if what they were being taught was the TRUTH.

"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."

You see, for one to truly know the TRUTH, one must RECEIVE the word of God with all readiness of mind and SEARCH the scriptures to PROVE to themselves that it is in fact the TRUTH, based upon the WHOLE word of God.

Now you may say to yourself that you have done this already and are confident that what you have been taught is in fact the TRUTH, but have you TRULY heard the WHOLE MATTER? Are you absolutely certain without a doubt that you have heard and have truly understood the WHOLE MATTER?

Something tells me that some have not searched out the whole matter, otherwise some obviously are unsure of some things and are seeking to know the TRUTH, the WHOLE TRUTH and NOTHING but the TRUTH. Well the word of God assures us... ***"he that seeks shall find".***

There is no doubt in my mind that Almighty God himself has led, and that it is no accident that you are reading these words right now. So, continue to be obedient to the Holy Spirit and keep reading until you have read the WHOLE MATTER.

Now as you read, please read with the mindset that perhaps, or just maybe you might have been taught incorrectly the word of God. Please understand what I am saying. I, myself have been taught many doctrines throughout my Christian walk, which upon searching deeper for myself by the leading of the Holy Spirit have found to be in error.

I sincerely believed that I was being taught the TRUTH at the time, but later on, the Holy Spirit revealed to me that some of what I was taught actually opposed or contradicted the pure undefiled TRUTH of the WHOLE word of God.

Satan is a DECEIVER and he will use sincere, well-meaning preachers and teachers of the word of God by MIXING a little truth to peddle his lies and doctrines of devils. This does not mean that those who taught these doctrines knew that they were not teaching the TRUTH. On the contrary, I am convinced that they sincerely believed that what they were teaching was the truth.

Nonetheless error was taught even though those who were and are teaching these false doctrines sincerely believe they were and are teaching the truth. So then, how can one be sure he or she has been taught the truth of God's word?

1 John 2:27 teaches us these words, *"But the anointing which you received of him abides in you, and you need NOT that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teaches you of all things, and is TRUTH, and is NO lie, and even as it (the anointing of the Holy Spirit) has taught you, you shall abide in him."*

2 Timothy 2:15 tells us that we are to study the word of God to show ourselves approved so that we will be a workman or servant of God that will not be ashamed. *"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, RIGHTLY DIVIDING the word of truth."*

We are not just to read the Bible, **but** we are to **study** the word of God to **prove** to ourselves that what we read or hear is in fact the **truth**. We are to **rightly divide** the word of God, which means to come to understand what the word of God is teaching **without** having any **contradictions** in another part of God's word.

It is in this area of not comparing scripture with scripture that many Christians error, because they simply and lightly ***"brush off"*** those verses of scripture that they do not understand that go against what they have come to believe. In other words, for whatever reason they harden their heart to hearing the WHOLE matter.

I don't know about you, but something as important as receiving eternal life as opposed to receiving eternal damnation I want to PROVE for myself whether I am being taught the truth, and not just rely upon what brother or sister so and so has said.

Not I, nor anyone else can PROVE to you what is the TRUTH and what is DECEPTION. The only thing that anyone can do including myself is to offer you the EVIDENCE based upon the word of God ALONE.

Now some Bible scholars may present their evidence in a more eloquent way than what I may be able to do, and therefore some may be more inclined to hear and follow the more eloquent speaker.

But the truth of the matter is that what some call a smooth-talking preacher may just be tickling your ear and telling you what your flesh wants to hear. And the reason being is because people do not want to endure **sound** doctrine, but desire to hear things that are pleasant to hear.

2 Timothy 4:3,4 tells us this about BELIEVERS turning away from the TRUTH to believe a LIE. *"For the time will come when they will NOT endure SOUND doctrine; but after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall TURN AWAY their ears from the TRUTH, and shall be turned unto fables."*

There are those that I have personally encountered who will **not** let go of the **false** teaching that they have received through the years, because they simply do not want to hear and listen to the TRUTH of the WHOLE word of God.

You see, just about any doctrine can be taught from bits and pieces of God's Holy word, but in the **light** of the **whole** word of God these false doctrines fall to the wayside, **if and only if** the one who is seeking the truth, desires with all their heart to know the TRUTH, the WHOLE TRUTH, and NOTHING but the TRUTH caring not who is right or wrong.

Also, know that it takes the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of our understanding, so please take the time to read the opening prayer, and to ask for God's help in teaching the TRUTH of the WHOLE word of God. Who knows better what the Bible teaches than the AUTHOR himself? May God, bless richly as you study his word.