Connections and Comparisons is an ongoing weekly series that deals with many scriptures in the Bible, some of which are not commonly addressed. The purpose of this series is to examine the scriptures at hand comparing what is said and looking at the connections within.

Acts 8:25-39

- 25 And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.
- 26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.
- 27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and **had come to Jerusalem for to worship,**
- 28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.
- 29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.
- 30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?
- 31 And he said, **How can I, except some man should guide me?** And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.
- 32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:
- 33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.
- 34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?
- 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.
- 36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?
- 37 And Philip said, **If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.** And he answered and said, **I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**
- 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.
- 39 And when they were **come up out of the water**, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

It is of the utmost importance that you have a Pastor and a preacher in your life!! Otherwise how can you hear and understand except some man should guide you?

Romans 10:13-17

- 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
- 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

You need a Pastor and a preacher in your life to hear and understand the Word of God!! You need help from the called man of God!! "how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?"

Hebrews 13:17

17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

It is vitally important that you understand what you read and what you hear!! It is vitally important that scripture is interpreted correctly!! It is vitally important to understand the context of the scriptures you are reading!! How can I, except some man should guide me?

Even the passages we just read have eternal consequences to your soul concerning salvation!! You can look at these scriptures and immediately say "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" not keeping the verse at hand in context with the epistle to the Roman Church and not in the correct understanding with other scriptures to the destruction of your own soul!! Did the scripture not also say "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?" Have you believed the report? Have you obeyed the gospel?

2 Timothy 2:15

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Are you studying the scriptures to see if what you are being taught is correct?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

What about what Jesus said?

Matthew 7:21-23

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

What about what the Apostle Paul just said in Romans chapter 10 verse 13? "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Did he make a mistake? Or have a greater revelation than Jesus Christ of whom he received the gospel? Or is there something that you do not understand? How can I, except some man should guide me?

What is the context of the scripture at hand? How does this work together with the other scriptures in the Word of God? We just read that when Philip preached Jesus to the eunuch that the eunuch upon seeing "a certain water" "said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."

So after hearing and believing the preaching of Jesus the eunuch knew he must be baptized. So did the Apostle Paul not know this? Or is there something that you do not understand? How can I, except some man should guide me?

Does the Apostle Paul in Romans chapter 10 forget what he said in chapter 6 concerning baptism in Jesus name that the people obeyed? Does that make void what Jesus spoke? "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Or is there something that you do not understand? How can I, except some man should guide me?

Romans 6:16-18

16 Know ye not, that **to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey**, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of <u>sin unto death</u>, or of <u>obedience unto righteousness</u>?

17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, **but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.**18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness

So the people that the Apostle Paul was speaking to had "obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered" them before he later tells these same people "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13)

In Romans 6:17 we find that the Apostle Paul says, "but ye have **obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine** which was delivered you." In Romans 10:9 above it read, "That if thou shalt **confess with thy mouth** the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe in thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Does this make void the doctrine that they obeyed from the heart that was delivered to them? The answer is no. **It is written** that they **had obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine** which was delivered to them.

As you can see from this example **you can not** just go to a certain scripture in a certain book of the Word of God **and decide** that you understand it's meaning **without studying the rest** of the

scriptures contained elsewhere. What you see here is the people **obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine** that was delivered to them and then **later on** those people were told that "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." This is because **these people had "obeyed** from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered" to them. What is this form of doctrine which was delivered to them? It is the baptism in Jesus name. Hear it!

Romans 6:3

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized into Jesus Christ** were baptized <u>into his</u> death?

This form of doctrine that they obeyed from the heart is found in the book of Acts 2:36-39.

Acts 2:36-39

- 36 Therefore let **all the house of Israel** know assuredly, that **God hath made the same Jesus**, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.
- 37 Now when they **heard this**, they were **pricked in their heart**, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, **Men and brethren**, **what shall we do?**
- 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.

Acts 8:34-39

- 34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?
- 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. 36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?
- 37 And Philip said, **If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.** And he answered and said, **I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**
- 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.
- 39 And when they were **come up out of the water**, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

The preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ to someone who is not saved will always bring forth what you must do in order to be saved!! "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." (Acts 2:38-41)

Salvation is the gift of God but if you do not obey the gospel and "Save yourselves from this untoward generation" by applying what was spoken to "even as many as the LORD our God shall call" (Acts 2:39) then you will be lost in your sins because you did not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ!!

Romans 10:13-17

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

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16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Let's take a closer look at Romans chapter 6 where we learn that those to whom this epistle to the Church at Rome had already obeyed from their heart and you will discover **the topic of baptism in Jesus name** and that of **the promise of the Holy Ghost. It was this form of doctrine that they had obeyed that had set them free from the law of sin and death!!**

Romans 6:16-18

16 Know ye not, that **to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey**, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of <u>sin unto death</u>, or of <u>obedience unto righteousness</u>?

17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Let's take a closer look at Romans chapter 6.

Romans 6:1-9

- 1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
- 2 God forbid. How shall we, **that are dead to sin**, live any longer therein?

Notice carefully the question asked here, "How shall we, **that are dead to sin**, live any longer therein?" The Apostle Paul goes on **to explain how** we become dead to sin.

- 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized into Jesus Christ** were baptized <u>into his</u> death?
- 4 Therefore **we are buried with him by baptism** into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead <u>by the glory of the Father</u>, even so **we also should walk in newness of life**. 5 For **if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death**, we shall be also <u>in the</u>

likeness of his resurrection:

Notice the **if clause** in verse 5. **If** we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. **Also** in verse 3 the Apostle Paul speaks of **the**

baptism in Jesus name as the way that we are planted together in the likeness of his death. This is that form of doctrine that they obeyed from the heart which was delivered to them.

- 6 Knowing this, that <u>our old man is crucified with him</u>, that **the body of sin might be destroyed**, that henceforth we should not serve sin.
- 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.
- 8 Now **if we be** dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also **live with him**:
- 9 Knowing that Christ being **raised from the dead** <u>dieth no more</u>; death hath **no more dominion over him.**

If you are not planted together in the likeness of his death, the body of sin will not be destroyed and you will perish in your sins because your old man was not crucified with him and therefore you will not be dead with Christ nor will you be freed from sin that you inherited from Adam.

How can I, except some man should guide me?