

C & C: Commitment. Determination. & Discipline.

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.

As Children of God we must be committed to Jesus Christ, determined in our minds that we are going to follow Jesus Christ no matter what is taking place in our life at any given time, while also disciplining our minds and bodies to be under subjection to Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16:24-26

24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**

25 **For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.**

26 **For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**

How can you deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus if you do not know what Jesus instructed his followers in the Gospels?

Matthew 5:39-41

39 **But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.**

40 **And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.**

41 **And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.**

Romans 8:12-14

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

2 Timothy 2:19

19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

How can you depart from iniquity if you do not know the New Testament and what we are instructed to do as followers of Jesus Christ? How do you know what is considered iniquity?

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.

It is crucial to your walk with God to study the Bible so that you will be approved unto God a workman that isn't ashamed who is correctly interpreting the word of truth.

Galatians 5:24

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Titus 2:11-12

11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

If you are saved by the grace of God that brings salvation then you must obey what the grace of God teaches us, which was “denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”. How do you know what “ungodliness and worldly lusts” are if you aren't familiar with the New Testament and how do you know what is living “righteously, and godly” if you aren't familiar with the New Testament? It is going to take a commitment to Jesus Christ, a determination in your mind that you are going to follow Jesus Christ no matter what is taking place in your life at any given time, while also disciplining your mind and body to be under subjection to Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

To cast “down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” you must know what the scriptures teach us or you will not have the knowledge of God that is given to us to fight this warfare.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

If you do not know the scriptures then you will be as one that beats the air. Fighting a spiritual warfare while blindly beating the air. The Apostle Paul says, “ I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air”. The only way for him to know how to fight in this warfare was to understand the knowledge of God given to us of which we gain from

studying the scriptures “a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

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.

It is of vital importance that you understand that “All scripture is given by inspiration of God” and that all of these scriptures are “profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” Every verse of scripture in the Bible must work together with the other verses of scripture contained within the Bible. If you do not know the scriptures then you will be fighting a spiritual warfare blindly beating the air.

How can you be committed to Jesus Christ, determined to follow Jesus Christ, and disciplined to follow after Jesus Christ without the knowledge of God given to us in the scriptures?

John 14:15

15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

1 John 5:2-3

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

If you love Jesus Christ then you must “keep his commandments”. “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” The only way for you to know his commandments is to study the Bible so that you know what his commandments are.

2 Peter 1:20

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

2 Peter 3:15-16

15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

If you are not well versed in the Bible the Apostle Peter just told us that the Apostle Paul with the wisdom God gave unto him that, “they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.” This is a serious warning! If you do not know the scriptures well then you will wrestle with them to your own destruction!

1 Corinthians 2:12-14

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The scriptures are spiritually discerned and will only be revealed to those who “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Tim 2:15)

Hebrews 11:6

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Luke 10:21

21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, **I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.**