

Questions about Death

Lesson 14

A. The Bible fits together when rightly understood: 2 Tim. 2:15 (1748); Heb. 13:8 (1772);

1. We start with the assumption that God doesn't lie
2. Believe the big picture
3. Consider the context

B. The thief on the cross: Luke 23:43 (1542)

1. This verse, at first reading, appears to say that both Jesus and the thief went to paradise that day! This makes an apparent contradiction in the Scriptures. If you add to this **Jn. 20:17** (1587), then it is even harder to understand. In **Jn. 20:17** (1587) Jesus told Mary, after His resurrection that he had not yet been to heaven, and this is three days later.
2. According to **2 Cor. 12:2-4** (1703) heaven and paradise are one and the same place. See also **Rev. 2:7** (1801) and compare it with **Rev. 22:1-2** (1825) and you will find the tree of life mentioned in both places.
3. This text can be understood in 2 very different ways and it has to do with the punctuating of the verse. Even though this seems to be a difficult text understanding it is really very simple. The illustration below will help.

Woman, without her, man is a beast.

Who is the beast in the above sentence? **Man** of course! Notice how the whole meaning of the text is changed by one comma:

Woman, without her man, is a beast!

Now who is the beast? **Woman!!** The whole meaning of the sentence was changed through the moving of one small comma. Notice how in Lk. 23:43 the whole meaning is changed by the moving of a comma.

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

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In the first sentence it is saying that the thief and Jesus were going directly to paradise that day. In the second sentence Jesus is promising the thief that he will be in paradise but he is not telling him when it will be. This would fit with Jesus' statement to Mary on the day of the resurrection when he told her that He had not yet been to heaven.

Someone may think changing a comma would be changing or twisting the scriptures but it is not. When the Bible was written by the prophets it was written without any punctuation of any kind. All the commas,

periods, and punctuation were added later in the 13th and 14th centuries by well meaning men. Actually the original New Testament scrolls were written in all capital letters and without any divisions between the words. Notice the illustration below:

GODISNOWHERE – Text as written in the original Greek.

GOD/IS/NOW/HERE OR GOD IS NOWHERE – See what a difference!

Notice **Luke 23:43** as punctuated in 2 different ways;

I say unto you, today you will be with me in Paradise. – This punctuation puts Jesus and the thief in heaven that day, where Jesus said to Mary that he had not yet been: **Jn. 20:17** (1587)

I say unto you today, you will be with me in Paradise. – This punctuation says Jesus promised the thief eternal life, “When he came into his kingdom”, and that is at the 2nd coming.

For those that may still have doubts about a comma being misplaced in the scriptures there is another comma that is misplaced in **Acts 19:12** (1627). If you read the verse, the way it is punctuated, you will find that it says there were sick handkerchiefs. This is only in the KJV, because modern scholars have caught this one and corrected it, or CHANGED IT! See for yourself my comparing a King James Version and any other modern translation of this verse.

There are a total of 60 verses in the Bible that refer to “what happens to a person at death”. Fifty one out of the 60 are very plain and easy to understand but the other 9 verses are difficult and take some careful research like this one to understand correctly. For an explanation of the other 9 difficult verses on death see Chapter 3 of my book, *The ABC’s of Bible Study*.

Review

1. The Bible was originally written without chapter divisions and punctuation. T F
2. After Jesus was resurrected who did He tell that He had not yet been to heaven?

3. The dead go straight to heaven at death. T F
4. Man has an immortal soul. T F
5. What was the first lie? _____