

April 11, 2021

Rediscovering Biblical Christianity: Understanding Difficult Passages

2 Peter 3:14-16

The analogy of Scripture – “No interpretation is correct if it contradicts the clear and general teaching of Scripture in other places” (Dr. Rathmell).

Based on the fact that God cannot lie.

(Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29; Titus 1:2)

An example of a difficult passage – Acts 2:38

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The context of Peter’s statement in his sermon

Acts 2:14-40

Joel 2:28-32 (Romans 10:13)

Acts 2:41 – Salvation, Identification, Association

The context of Peter’s Sermon in the book of Acts

Acts 3:19 –

Acts 5:31 –

Acts 10:44-48 –

Acts 11:15-18 –

Acts 16:30-34 –

Acts 20:20-21 –

The context of the book of Acts in the Bible

John 20:21 –

John 3:16, 18 –

Romans 10:9-13 –

Ephesians 2:8-9 –

Romans 4:23-24 (Genesis 15:6) –

1 Corinthians 1:14-17 –

Conclusion – Acts 2:38 (*cp.* 1 Peter 3:21)

Questions for Discussion and Contemplation

1. What difficult passages have puzzled you in your Bible reading? Did you ever figure it out or get help with it?
2. How do the cultists use (misuse) difficult passages to deceive people? Can you provide an example?
3. What is the consequence of a person trusting in baptism rather than trusting in Christ's work alone for salvation?