

# San Juan church of Christ

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## What Does God's Word Say About...

### Scriptural Knowledge

All rational students of the Bible want to be told, by teachers and preachers, not just what to believe, but also why doctrinal truths are to be believed. Every faithful teacher of the Bible should be prepared to deliver the doctrinal truths in clear terms. Bible doctrines are all taught by specific Bible passages and the connections between them can be described so that the average man can understand (1 Cor. 14:33).

Teachers who have devoted their time to the study of God's word will be held accountable to what they teach to others: "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment" (James 3:1). Paul instructed Timothy, a preacher of God's word, to "Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will insure salvation for both yourself and for those who hear you", (1 Tim. 4:16). Paul also told Timothy "not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of hearers. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth," (2 Tim. 2:14-15). Paul instructed the church at Corinth that "as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ," (2 Cor. 11:3).

The Bible is not a mystical book that can only be understood by a scholarly few. Peter said that all of us should "grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord," (2 Pet. 3:18). Also, the Hebrew writer wrote that all of us at some point in our Christian walk "ought to be teachers...For everyone who partakes only in milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant," (Heb. 5:11-14). The Bible is a living book that when studied, makes all men who are seeking truth, gain knowledge and wisdom (Prov. 9:1-6). The true Biblical scholar is one who has discovered truth and who is willing and able to show the truth to those who are genuinely seeking truth themselves.

This is why the "pseudo-scholars" of the first century stumbled over the simplicity of the gospel (1 Cor. 1:18-24). They demanded to hear what was "profound," "wise," "deep," and "intellectual," according to human standards, and they were irritated with the "foolishness" of the simple gospel of Christ.

Pseudo-scholars still exist among us today. The simplicity of the gospel is not enough for them. They are constantly searching for something new and profound to show others how wise they are. A good teacher of God's word has true Biblical knowledge to share, but no need to prove that he is note worthy. His delight is in helping others to find the truth.

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:  
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