

21T18 Rent?

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table.

Do you know what “rent” means? I don’t mean paying rent. I mean the Bible version of rent. In the bible “rent” means to tear with violent force as a manifestation of rage or grief. I never understood this word or why someone would do such a thing.

Over the course of many years of studying the bible, I have been drawn into a closer and closer relationship with Jesus and His word the Bible. Misuse and abuses of the Bible have increasingly grieved me. Until I heard a message from a pastor, and I felt incredible grief at the misuse of a scripture. I literally felt like “renting my clothes” in agony and grief. This was the only way to describe the feeling I had in my heart.

Separately, my wife had been listening to another pastor on the radio and she experienced the same sensation. She told me that she literally felt like tearing her clothes is extreme grief over the misuse of a scripture.

Now I’m not here today to beat on pastors. I’m here to beat on myself. For so many years I’ve listened to pastors in my churches, on the radio, on TV and on-line. The more I’ve read the Bible, the more times I’ve heard something said and went “wait that’s not what it says”. But sadly, I rarely opened my bible and studied those scriptures to find the truth.

I trust my Bible as the word of God and I love God, so why did I never check. I’m not criticizing the pastors or teachers; I’m criticizing us and especially me.

First, I believe in the Bible. I believe the Bible has a consistent message cover to cover, Genesis to Revelation. I believe there are no contradictions in the Bible. I believe in the errancy of the Bible. That does not mean that I trust every word in my English translation, because to do that I’d have to determine which translation is correct. I’m not going to do this. But I do believe the core tenants of our faith are consistently presented contextually in every mainstream English translation of the Bible. And when in doubt you can dig a little deeper and see the original language words in Greek and Hebrew to better understand the translators intent. We have to remember a word’s use changes over time, so it is important to use the words in the Bible as they we intended by the author when they wrote them. The word rent is a perfect example.

I’ve said all of this for this reason, if your interpretation of the Bible is not supported by ALL Scripture, then you are probably wrong. Let me say that one more time. If your interpretation of the Bible is not supported by **ALL Scripture**, then you are probably wrong.

Or I have said it this way before, if there are scriptures that don't support your view, then keep your view to yourself. And for preachers and teachers out there, don't forget to use this principle and read the Bible yourself. Read it like a Child with no preconceived ideas. I've seen people I respect greatly read a scripture, then spout something they learned in seminary or from a commentary or heard from another pastor. It's like we've been conditioned to simply agree with what others say about the Bible instead of reading it and letting the Holy Spirit reveal the truth to us.

As I have read the Bible, this has become more and more apparent that many popular and commonly taught doctrines in the church today may not agree with ALL scripture. I'm going to read a single scripture passage without mentioning the doctrine in doubt and you tell me what you think this means. Does your doctrine pass the supported by ALL scripture test?

Let's look at an example from Jesus' teachings in the gospel of Matthew. Jesus is talking to His disciples about the troubles and trials they are going to face. He is talking to all His followers not just the twelve. Jesus says, *"And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved."* (Matthew 10:22 KJV) or for those of you that like modern English versions, *"You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved."* (Matthew 10:22 NIV) or *"And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved."* (Matthew 10:22 NKJV)

No matter the translation you read the message is consistent about what is necessary to be saved. Remember all Jesus disciples were martyred, so he is not telling them that their earthly life will be saved. And there are other places in the Bible Jesus tells us things we must do to be saved. How does your doctrine hold up to these scriptures? Open your Bible and read it.

Don't let preconceived ideas prevent you from letting the Holy Spirit reveal the truth. No matter what someone told you to believe.

Another example of this is Paul writing to His friend Timothy. Paul is talking about praying to God with petitions, for intercession and with thanksgiving. Paul writes, *"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."* (1 Timothy 2:4 KJV) or again for you that like the modern English translations *"who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."* (1 Timothy 2:4 NIV) or *"who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."* (1 Timothy 2:4 NKJV). Regardless of what translation you use the message is consistent. God wants everyone to be saved, not just a special club or select group. All men, All people or the whole world. How does your doctrine hold up to these scriptures? Open your Bible and read. Don't let preconceived ideas prevent you from letting the Holy Spirit reveal the truth. No matter what someone told you to believe.

Each of the examples I used have multiple scriptures in the Bible which conflict with the commonly taught doctrine, I've only present one each as an example. Now I

cannot tell you whether or not your belief in this doctrine is wrong or correct. I can only tell you that they don't pass the "supported by the Bible test". They may be supported by a scripture or two or three, but they are not supported by the entire Bible, by ALL scripture. I know this is a very high standard to meet but this is what it means to be supported by the Bible, by ALL Scriptures.

The "rent my clothes" moment for me is when I hear someone use one of these statements, "and this is without a doubt supported by the Bible" or "it is clear that the Bible supports this". I have this intense emotion that can only be captured by the "renting of clothes" concept. I am so grieved, not for the pastor or teacher but for the people listening who don't care enough to look it up in the Bible. The attitude of "that's what I was taught" or "that's what my church believes" makes me want to cry. You know why teacher use a phrase like this in the first place. It's to give authority to their statement. If you don't believe their statement then you are against the Bible, Right?

We must own our faith. Our relationship with Jesus is a personal one. I cannot follow Jesus by doing what someone else tells me to do. I must know Jesus for myself. I must read His word in the Bible and yes, I must search for His truth, not just take someone else's word for it.

Take me for example. Don't trust what I've told you today. Open your Bibles and read it. Go to BlueLetterBible.org and search for bible verses that say "XYZ" or whatever you are questioning. Then read all of them, not just the ones that agree with you. Read all of them. Then let the Holy Spirit help you to find an understanding that agrees with all scripture. Only then should you engage others to deepen your understanding. As we involve more and more people in our discovery process, more and more people will grow in their understanding of God's word and God's truth. Go to your pastor and ask them how they reconcile these scriptures in light of the opinion they had shared. Write your favorite on-line or radio pastor with questions. These godly men will write back and if they don't they are not worthy of our attention.

I love my pastor and have many many pastors who are close friends, but I don't just take their word as truth. Especially when it's declared that scripture support a point, I always challenge that claim. Not to be difficult but to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to me. Core Tenants of Christianity are all supported by all scripture. If they are not supported by all scripture, then they are not core tenants. And there are many things that may well be true but if they are not supported by all scripture, they should not be taught as such.

Whenever you have that feeling, open your bible and discover what it says for yourself. You will always be blessed by the effort you put in. Then share what you have read with others. This is how our community grows stronger with all members studying the word of God. God promises to give wisdom freely to those who ask. So, Ask.

Heavenly Father. Thank you for your word the Bible. Thank you for giving us the wisdom to understand your word to discover your truth. Help us to search and study and learn from you through the Holy Spirit. And share our studies and questions with others.

And I pray all these things to the Father in your name Jesus. Amen.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table today,

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