

## “PASSAGES EXPLAINED” # 1

It is not uncommon for the Bible to define itself, in what it has said. In some cases it can be a word that is defined and in other cases it can be a phrase or a complete verse – because of this quality of the Bible it is important that we look for these passages in which the Bible defines itself, what it means.

The word **“church,”** is defined to be the **“body.”** *“22 and he put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all,”* Eph. 1:22-23. From this passage we learn **the body and the church are the same.** When Jesus built his church, Matt. 16:18, we are to understand he built his body. In Eph. 4:4 Paul states, *“There is one body.”* Since the body and the church are the same, we are to understand there is only **“one”** church. In this the scriptures gives its meaning.

The word **“faith,”** and the word **“belief”** are presented as the same. *“6 and without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that seek after him,”* Heb. 11:6. In this passage the word **“faith”** and **“belief”** are interchangeable. So, when I see the word “faith” I know it is the same as “belief.” In this the scriptures gives it meaning.

Acts 5:4-5 we find the **“Holy Spirit”** is designated as being **“God!”** *“But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thy heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4 While it remained, did it not remain thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thy power? How is it that thou hast conceived this thing in thy heart? thou hast not lied unto man, but unto God.”* God is spoken as being God! Gen. 1:1. Jesus is spoken as being God, Jno. 1:1. The Holy Spirit is spoken as being God, Acts 5:4. In this the scriptures gives its meaning.

Matt. 19:24 states, *“It is easier for a camel to go through a needle’s eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.”* The needle of this passage is defined as a **sewing needle**; thus the Lord is teaching this kind of rich man cannot enter into the kingdom of God – he cannot go through the eye or a sewing needle! Did you notice I said, “this kind of rich man,” because in the book of Mark we have it explained additionally. *“Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through a needle’s eye than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God,”* Mk. 10:24-25. This passage in Mk. 10:24 uses the expression, **“trust in riches,”** and I learn that it is not just a rich man that cannot go to heaven; but rather, a certain kind of rich man – one who **“rust in his riches.”** In this the scriptures gives its meaning.

Often, I read of the **Pharisees**, Matt. 22:44, and of the **Sadducees**, Matt. 22:23. Should I desire to seek further the meaning of these two religious groups, I need to remember the New Testament tells me who they are and the difference in their teachings. *“8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit; but the Pharisees confess both,”* Acts 23:8. I learn from this passage what the Sadducees and the Pharisees believe, what their differences are. In this the scriptures gives its meaning.

**Baptism is a burial.** Some, in the religious world, have contended that baptism can be either “sprinkling” or “Pouring.” When one reads the New Testament it is evident this is not the meaning of “baptism.” In Rom. 6:4 baptism is called a **“burial.”** Also in Col. 2:12 **“having been buried with him in baptism.”** In each of these passages baptism is called a “burial.” **The New Testament solved the problem for us** did it not? In this the scriptures gives its meaning.

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