

“PASSAGES THAT DEFINE WORDS AND IDEAS”

There are **passages** in the Bible which define words and explain ideas and should be considered carefully, this is **God explaining** certain ideas in his own writings. I have learned in preaching and teaching that it is profitable to allow God to define His own words and ideas and it is profitable to just turn to such a passage and allow God to tell us what he means.

Lk. 1:6: *“6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.”* This passage is explaining how a person can be **“righteous,”** - walking or keeping the commandments of the Lord. Zacharias and Elisabeth were “righteous” because they kept the commandments of God, to them it was the Law of Moses, and to us today it is the Law of Christ, Gal. 6:2. When I am asked what it means to be righteous, I simply turn and read the passage.

Acts 23:8: *“8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit; but the Pharisees confess both,”* In this passage I find the Sadducees and Pharisees **defined**. When asked what these two groups believe, I turn to this passage and let them read with me and see the Bible defining what these two groups of people believed. You see, the Bible is defining itself and all I have to do is turn to this passage and read it. In this the Bible is explaining its meaning.

Col. 2:12: *“12 Having been buried with him in baptism.”* This passage is teaching concerning the mode of **“BAPTISM.”** If a question concerning whether baptism can be sprinkling or pouring, I turn to this passage and make the point, “The Bible says it is a **“BURIAL.”** It is also stated in Rom. 6:4, that we are *“buried with the Lord in baptism.”* The English dictionaries will define the word as “immersion,” “sprinkling,” or “pouring;” but, God defines it as a **“BURIAL!”** In this passage God defines the word, himself, and thus tells us what the word meant in the revelation of the New Testament. All I have to do is show in Col. 2:12 how God defines the word. That then, settles the problem of the **“mode”** of baptism.

Jno. 14:23-24: *“23 If a man love me, he will keep my word: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. 24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my words: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father’s who sent me.”* The same idea is presented in I Jno. 3:22-24. The man that love’s God will keep the word of God. He who does not love God does not abide in the teaching of the word – these passages are teaching this very thought. What does it mean to love God? Keep his commandments. Obeying the word of God is a demonstration of one’s love for the master and not keeping the word is a demonstration of a lack of love for God. We can look at a man’s life and determine whether he **LOVES** God; or, whether he does not have a love for God. What a man does determines whether **a man does or does not love God**. God explains this thought concerning love.

We should all read the Bible with the intention of finding out what God explains about his word and believe it. There are so many places in the Bible that explains what he means, let him have his say about what he has written.

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