

- Review - the importance of reading scripture - basic for growth - 1 Peter 2:2
 - Matt. 22:29 John 17:17 When to study? Morning, noon, night? Yes
 - A specific time not dictated flavor whole life - day and night - Ps. 1:2
- AA meeting today. Acrostic this morning (DREAM) and acronym this evening
 - Silly acronym C-GAM! (Batman) help with interpretation
- C
 - Context (location, location, location)
 - Understand a verse from the surrounding verses
 - John 11:14-15 (1st 4 words) - "...Lazarus is dead and I am glad..."
 - Was Jesus glad that Lazarus was dead?
 - *Judge not* (Matt. 7) one of the most misinterpreted verses in the Bible
 - It warns of the reciprocal nature of judging and how to go about properly judging - only whole passage gives right meaning - Matt. 7:1-6 (John 7:24)
 - *Where two or three are gathered together...* (Matt. 18:20)
 - Not talking about a small prayer meeting but church discipline
 - 2 or 3 witness - Matt. 18:16
 - When the church judges sin within...Christ is with them (1 Cor. 5:12)
 - Jesus is always with useven if only one is praying
 - Never leave or forsake - *with you always* - Matt. 28:20
 - Phil. 4:13 "*I can do all things..*"
 - Often quoted with winning in life in mind - touchdown!
 - I have only heard it used in that context I think I can, I think I can...
 - Almost as a motivational tactic to get the job/excel
 - Phil. 4:11-13 Humble, hungry and suffering are included in the "*all things*" that can be done in Christ
 - Losing/failing....I can do all things... win or lose
 - Suffering in the flesh I can do all things.... sick or well
 - Missing meals I can do all things.... (Daniel) hungry or full
 - Comparison (I often stutter soCccc-GAM) considering the context of all of scripture
 - Scripture interprets scripture - clear passages help with unclear ones
 - Be careful if there is only one verse
 - It is authoritative but be careful not to be too dogmatic
 - Example - Baptism for the dead - 1 Cor. 15:29
 - Pre-Trib. Rapture - Rev. 3:10
 - You want to know what the totality of scripture says on a subject
 - Only after you compare many texts can you get the biblical truth
 - You can quote the Bible without being biblical if you quote something out of context & neglect to compare to other scripture
 - Scripture complements and clarifies itself. Scripture interprets scripture
 - Divorce - no exceptions or some exceptions? Which is it?
 - It depends on which verse you read
 - No exceptions given - Mark 10:11-12 Luke 16:18

- Exceptions - Matt. 5:32 (Matt. 1:19) Matt. 19:9 (1 Cor. 7:10-15); Deut 24:1-5
- It would be wrong to take the passages with “*no-exceptions*” and have them overrule the ones with exceptions.
 - Much harm has been done to people because of this
- The “*exception*” passages give clarity and explanation in an expanded way that gives us the will of God on this subject.
 - **God is divorced** and He is completely righteous – Jer. 3:8
- Forgiveness - Is repentance required for personal forgiveness?
Are we required to forgive everyone... every time... for everything automatically and immediately? It depends on which verse you read.
 - Sometimes prerequisites are given, sometimes not - Luke 17:3-5
 - Does God forgive if there is a refusal to repent? - 1 John 1:9
- **Non-Contradiction**
 - One verse will not contradict another one
 - The problem in our understanding is in our cognition not that there is a contradiction in scripture.
 - We are to study to show ourselves approved...workmen - 2 Tim. 2:15
 - Blind Bart....one or two....entering or leaving? Matt. 20:29, Mark 10:46, Luke 18:35
 - Not the same event....or.... additional facts of the one event
 - there were many similar events in our Lord’s ministry
 - Feeding 5000...then 4000
 - Clearing the Temple at beginning & end of ministry
 - The world could not contain the books if all was recorded John 21:25
 - Eternal security or insecurity
 - There are verses that *seem* to teach both but both can’t be true at the same time and in the same way. All the facts must fit for true doctrine
 - There are many passages that teach eternal security -
 - John 10:27-29 John 6:37 1 Peter 1:4-5 2 Tim. 1:12 John 5:24
 - There are many passages that set conditions for security
 - Matt. 7:21 Heb. 3:14 Heb. 10:26 (2 Cor. 13:5)
 - God’s sovereignty and man’s responsibility
 - One truth doesn’t do away with another truth just because they are difficult to reconcile. There are paradoxes in the Bible
 - Some things are *both/and* not *either/or*
 - Trinity - one God in three Persons $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$
 - Jesus being God and man
 - The Bible being Divine & Human (both truths are affirmed)
 - God’s love - equally distributed to all people who have ever existed?
 - There is one verse that seems to teach this - John 3:16
 - What about - Ps. 5:5; 11:5 Mal. 1:2-3; Rom. 9:13; Prov. 6:16-19 ?
 - Bible passages complement each other...they do not contradict each other
 - Male and Female
 - All the truths of scripture fit perfectly together - like a puzzle