Letting Go of Preconceived Ideas

Letting go of preconceived ideas when it comes to Bible related topics and ideas is the most difficult thing a person can do. This is an extremely difficult thing for people since it challenges the very foundational beliefs of their religion. Man can let go of scientific beliefs that are found to be wrong and replace them with new found knowledge fairly easily. General world beliefs are also easy to replace as better and more accurate understanding emerges. The foundational beliefs deep in your heart, mind and soul define who you are and what your place is within the world and how you relate to it and walk forward. Tearing up any portion of this religious foundation that is in error and replacing it with new found truth is nearly impossible as it shakes ones entire world and how one relates to it. Therefore one is not able to see or accept truth when they see it or it is shown to them. Recognizing this challenge is the first step forward in really learning and understanding God’s word.

1. Starting

In order to go forward there is something you must do first, that is study the entire Bible to identify and collect what is given to us on the nature or personality of God. You are not to filter or judge or throw out anything that you find from this study. You need to do this and then summarize what you have learned, it is important that you do not judge or remove anything you have collected on this topic. You need to accept this summary as everlasting truth. Now you need to always keep this summary in the forefront of your mind as you study God’s word.

2. Methodology

How can one let go of preconceived Biblical or religious ideas and replace them with truth? First you must be highly motivated and driven in your search for Bible truth. Second you need to select a specific topic, ie such as the Sabbath, etc. Third you need to pretend that you are a detective and are searching for facts, then collect them on the one specific topic you have selected. Do not evaluate them of filter them or discard them at this time, just collect them. Remember you are a detective collecting facts, there is a later time which you will evaluate them. These facts must be collected from both the Old and New Testaments. One can also try to become like a little child, being passionate in wanting to learn, going forward with an open mind and accepting and obeying what is shown to one. Fourth you now need to pray and ask God to give you His Holy Spirit to help you, to let go of all preconceived ideas, and that you will accept and obey and place on your heart what is shown to you. You need to be completely earnest and honest in this request. You need to be very persistent in continually praying and asking God to open His scripture to you. This is because you have up to this point in life established a way forward with a closed mind, and God
has placed blinders on you. You need to plead with God to remove the blinders. **Fifth** you need to start your detective evaluation with first the Old Testament by itself and then the New Testament by itself. Keep an awareness that you do not jump to a conclusion early, only form the conclusion at the end after complete analysis and evaluation. Then join the Old and New Testament evaluations together in understanding. **Sixth** you need to accept what you have found. **Seventh** you need to thank God for showing you the truth that you have just experienced.

### 3. Evaluation

How do you carry out this analysis and evaluation? You need to be very careful that you understand the context of each verse. Often this will require going back and reading verses before and after some collected verses to the extent needed. As a detective only form a conclusion or hypothesis after evaluation of all the facts collected. Every fact must fit, there can be no exceptions, if they do not all fit together reinforcing the same hypothesis then either you have not found the right answer or what does not fit may be taken out of context and that will require further digging in order to resolve. One method involves using Strong numbers to better understand specific words. If the same word occurs in both the Old and new Testament, then check the Hebrew word from the old Testament to obtain a more accurate and in depth understanding. If Strong numbers do not give enough insight you will need to go the Hebrew and Greek Lexicons. To evaluate scripture in proper context understand who is speaking, who is the verse directed to and what is the culture of the time it was said. Also recognize that the New Testament was not established until 30 to 60 years after Jesus resurrection, so initially before the New Testament was written only the Old Testament was available. You need to be very careful in this evaluation that you do not try to force the facts to any preconceived idea. You must keep an open mind and only evaluate what the facts are showing you. If you do this properly everything will fit, it will be completely rational and if you reflect the facts will have interpreted themselves.

In doing this evaluation be very careful that you do not try to make the facts fit a Church doctrine or something that a pastor or someone else has told you. If your analysis fits these other things fine, if it does not recognize the only doctrine we are to follow is what the Holy Bible tells us, not doctrine set by a committee of men or what is preached to you from a pastor.

If you have followed this process and do not accept and obey what has been opened or shown to you, then nothing else will ever be shown to you. God’s spirit within you will suddenly go dormant. Consider the following scripture.

**Act 5:32** And we are his witnesses of these things; and *so is* also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.
Note that obedience to God means submission to His will. It is not a pick and choose, either one walks forth in submission and obedience or one does not.

4. Traditions of Man

Be careful that you do not follow the traditions of man in preference to the commandments of God. Following the commandments of God are walking forward in obedience. Our expression of love to God is our keeping of His commands, going forward in obedience to all that He requires of us. This is an important criterion of going forward properly on the narrow path that God provides before us and we are required to walk. We have been warned of walking on the wrong path. If you follow the wrong path the Holy Spirit will not show you truth or understanding in God’s word.

Mat 15:3  But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

Mat 15:7  Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,
Mat 15:8  This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.
Mat 15:9  But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Mar 7:7  Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.
Mar 7:8  For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.
Mar 7:9  And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

Mar 7:13  Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

Col 2:8  Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of
men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

In order to follow and do the commandments of God, one must know first how God counts time and the calendar that God uses. Next many of these commandments are the Holy Days of God, His Feasts, they are God’s not mans Holy Days. These are spelled out in Leviticus 23. Today man conflicts these commandments with his traditions of Easter and Christmas as well as a number of others. Do your own studies, the tools are given to you above.

The commandments of God are contained in the first five books of the Bible and added to by Jesus at His first coming.

Either we obey God or we do not. Everyone has free choice while he is yet alive, choose carefully.

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