The Next Verse

Intro: 2 Tim. 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

Many scriptures emphasize the seriousness and respect with which we should view the Word of God.

1. This face is seen in the limitations God has placed upon His Word.
   a. 1 Pet. 4:11 “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”
   b. No additions
      i. Pro. 30:6 “Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”
      ii. Rev. 22:18 “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:”
      iii. 2 John 9 “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”
   c. No subtraction
      i. Rev. 22:19 “And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”
      ii. Deu. 4:2 “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”
   d. No substitution
      i. Lev. 10:1-2 “And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.”
      ii. Mat. 15:9 “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”
      iii. Gal. 1:6-9 “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another, but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

2. But, not only should we learn not to substitute, subtract, or go beyond that which is written; but we need to learn the lesson found in Acts 20:20, 27 “And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,... For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”

3. If these principles were applied, our confusion and difficulties in the religious world would be eliminated.

4. So much of our spiritual ills have resulted from taking one verse and building a doctrine around it without considering the next verse.

I. ONE VERSE BY ITSELF CAN LEAD TO FALSE CONCLUSIONS.
   A. Job 2:4 “And Satan answered the Lord, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.”
   B. Mat. 5:38 “Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:”
      1. Seemingly teaches retaliation.
      2. However, we find the next verse corrects that idea; Mat. 5:39 “But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.”
   C. Mat. 5:43 “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.”
      1. Some would think the Bible is teaching us to hate our enemies.
2. However, consider Mat. 5:44 “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;”

D. We can readily see from these examples that one verse taken by itself can lead to false conclusion.

E. If true on these verses, it can also be true in reference to other verses upon which some may found their doctrines.

II. SOME PREVALENT MISCONCEPTIONS AS A RESULT OF NOT CONSIDERING THE NEXT VERSE.

A. Mat. 3:11 “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:”
   1. Some in the religious world pray for baptism in fire.
   2. Yet, we find what this baptism is within the context
      a. Mat. 3:10 “And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”
      b. Mat. 3:12 “Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

B. Mat. 28:19 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”
   1. Too many members of the church want to end the story at this point.
   2. The baptized must be taught; Mat. 28:20 “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

C. Mark 16:15-18 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”
   1. Many have a misconception as to the purpose of miracles.
   2. Jesus continues on to tell us their purpose; Mark 16:19-20 “So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”
      a. They are to confirm the word.
      b. Heb. 2:4 “God also bearing witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”

D. John 6:44 “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”
   1. How are we drawn to God?
   3. Jesus explains how we are drawn to God; John 6:45 “It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”

E. John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”
   1. Many teach the denominations are the branches.
   2. However, Jesus shows that individuals are the branches, not denominations; John 15:6 “If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”

F. Rom. 10:13 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
   1. This passage is one of the most misapplied verses in all the Bible.
2. It can be scripturally understood only in light of its context and parallel passages.
   a. Rom. 10:12-17 “For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! 16But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? 17So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
   b. Acts 2:21-38
      (1) Acts 2:21 “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
      (2) They ask what they must do.
      (3) Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
   c. Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

G. Gal. 3:26 “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”
   1. Some teach that all that is necessary to be a child of God is faith.
   2. Gal. 3:27 “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
      a. This verse explains the preceding verse—being children of God by faith.
      b. The Greek word translated “for” is γὰρ (gár) which means “here is the reason.”
      c. The reason you are children of God is because you have been baptized into Christ.

Conclusion: Let us accept the whole council of God which includes the next verse; Acts 20:20, 27 “And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,...” For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”