
“Twisting Scripture” Matthew 13:3-9 and 18-23

- I. Truth devoured by “birds”. **Verses 3,4, & 19**
 1. By priests
 2. By pastors
 3. By the church

“The Roman Church reserves to the clergy the right to interpret the Scriptures. On the ground that ecclesiastics alone are competent to explain God’s word, it is withheld from the common people. Though the Reformation gave the Scriptures to all, yet the selfsame principle which was maintained by Rome prevents multitudes in Protestant churches from searching the Bible themselves. They are taught to accept its teachings as interpreted by the church; and there are thousands who dare receive nothing, however plainly revealed in Scripture, that is contrary to their creed or the established teaching of their church.” *The Great Controversy, page 596*

- II. Truth that had no roots. **Verses 5,6,20 & 21**
 1. Sabbath work problems. **Mark 2:27&28**
 2. Truth is relative. **John 14:6**
 3. You can prove anything you want from the Bible. **2 Peter 3:16**

“The vague and fanciful interpretations of Scripture, and the many conflicting theories concerning religious faith, that are found in the Christian world are the work of our great adversary to confuse minds so that they shall not discern the truth. And the discord and division which exist among the churches of Christendom are in a great measure due

to the prevailing custom of wresting the Scriptures to support a favorite theory. Instead of carefully studying God's word with humility of heart to obtain a knowledge of His will, many seek only to discover something odd or original."

The Great Controversy, page 520

- III. Rightly dividing the Word of Truth. **2 Timothy 3:15**
1. Pray to be spiritually minded. **1 Corinthians 2:12-14**
 2. Pray for meekness. **Psalm 25:9**
 3. Consider the context of the passage.
 4. Let the Bible be its own interpreter.
 5. Find out what the whole Bible says about a topic. **Isaiah 28:9&10**
 6. Make a decision based on the weight of evidence. **Hebrews 11:3**

"God never asks us to believe, without giving sufficient evidence upon which to base our faith. His existence, His character, the truthfulness of His word, are all established by testimony that appeals to our reason; and this testimony is abundant. Yet God has never removed the possibility of doubt. Our faith must rest upon evidence, not demonstration."

Steps to Christ, page 105

- IV. Truth that is choked. **Verses 7 & 22**
- V. Truth that is heard, understood, and that is able to bear fruit. **Verses 8 & 23**