

Hermeneutics

Lesson Four

Review of Lessons One through Three

Grammar

Case Study: Thee's and Thou's

Case Study: Do Commas Matter?

Case Study: Genitive Phrases

Case Study: Grammar of Regeneration

Lesson One

Introduction

Means of Understanding

What is Reading?

What is Understanding?

The Need for Understanding

What is Interpretation?

Understanding – Examples

Elihu the Interpreter

Every Word of God

Personal Qualifications

Understanding - 1

1. It is possible to read and generally know the Bible and not understand it.

2. Jesus rebuked religious leaders of His day for not understanding scripture.

“But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice” (Matt 19:13).

“But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice” (Matt 12:7).

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures” (Matt 22:29).

3. He rebuked seminary grads that fanatically adored scripture ... *for not reading!*

“Have ye not read ...” (Matt 12:3)?

“Or have ye not read ...” (Matt 12:5)?

“Have ye not read ...” (Matt 19:4)?

“Did ye never read in the scriptures ...” (Matt 21:42)?

“... have ye not read ...” (Matt 22:31)?

Understanding - 2

“So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading” (Neh 8:8).

1. We **READ** to decode language marks for words and sentences.
2. We read **DISTINCTLY** to separate and differentiate each word.
3. We **GIVE** something to hearers by clear verbal communication.
4. We give **THE SENSE** as God’s intended meaning by the words.
5. We **CAUSE** hearers to obtain a desired effect by these means.
6. We cause hearers to **UNDERSTAND** the reading themselves.

Personal Qualifications

WARNING

Do not neglect or underestimate this section.

This is the most important factor in knowing scripture.

The Bible is a spiritual book, written by the eternal Spirit, Who demands we use it on His terms. While the flesh, the world, Satan, and most Bible students ignore or despise these points, they are more important than any rules of hermeneutics. Crush your impatience, and wait upon the Lord for the liberal wisdom and understanding that only He can give.

Father, Lord of heaven and earth, help us babes.

Personal Qualifications

- 1. You must be born again to see anything.**
- 2. You must be enlightened by the Holy Spirit.**
- 3. You must fear God to even begin learning.**
- 4. You must delight in God to obtain His favor.**
- 5. You must obey and apply all learning.**
- 6. You must ask in prayer for knowledge.**
- 7. You must seek for understanding to get it.**
- 8. You must accept correct and instruction.**
- 9. You must have godly and noble motives.**
- 10. You need to use your God-given teachers.**

Lesson Two

Large Context – No Contradictions

Small Context – Master Guide

Case Study: Ahaziah's Age

Case Study: Revelation 3:20

Case Study: Book of Hebrews

Large Context – No Contradictions

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.”

II Peter 1:20

- 1. We gladly claim this as the first rule of Bible interpretation.**
- 2. Private. Separate, alone, individual, personal, peculiar, special.**
- 3. No part of the scripture can teach a contradiction to the whole.**
- 4. There are no contradictions – it is our job to reconcile all parts.**
- 5. Why? Because it was written by 40 writers but only one Author.**

Small Context – Master Guide

A text used out of context is a pretext!

1. A TEXT is a word, clause, verse, or paragraph to interpret.
2. CONTEXT is the surrounding information showing intent.
3. OUT OF CONTEXT is using words contrary to the Author's intent.
4. A PRETEXT is a false impression designed to hide the truth.
5. ASK ... Who, Whom, Why, When, What, and Where?

Which Contextual Rule Rejects the Heresy?

“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb 4:12).

“I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up” (Ac 15:16).

“Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace” (Gal 5:4).

Lesson Three

Review of Lessons One and Two

Comparing Scripture to Scripture

Rightly Dividing Scripture

Case Study: Phases of Salvation

Case Study: Wine in the Bible

Case Study: Ptolemy

Case Study: Do We Have 9 Examples?

Compare Scripture with Scripture – 1

“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

I Corinthians 2:13

- 1. The wonderful context here is the Spirit’s revelation of God’s mysteries.**
- 2. Paul acknowledged he and other apostles declared those mysteries.**
- 3. They did not use words of man’s wisdom, but words of God’s choice.**
- 4. They compared spiritual things with spiritual by Spirit-given things.**
- 5. The Bible is a spiritual book by a Spiritual Author, not human literature.**

Compare Scripture with Scripture – 2

“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

I Corinthians 2:13

- 6. No man can or does know the things of God but the Spirit of God.**
- 7. Man’s natural ideas of words and concepts are dangerous in scripture.**
- 8. Every word of God is important (Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5; Luke 4:4).**
- 9. Scripture argues individual words ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/every-word-of-god.pdf>.**
- 10. For more on this passage ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/mysteries-of-hidden-wisdom.pdf>.**

Comparing Scripture Applied

- 1. We cannot stop until we have compared all related words and concepts.**
- 2. What study tool shows each occurrence of each word? A concordance.**
- 3. What study tools show concepts? *The Treasury* and *Nave's Topical*.**
- 4. This rule assumes the Bible is internally superior to external aids, so we trust the Spirit's guidance in the Bible over human commentaries.**
- 5. Therefore, we say the Bible is the best commentary on the Bible.**
- 6. We use commentaries to accelerate finding the Spirit's comparisons.**
- 7. We must compare scripture to resolve all "contradictions." See rule #1.**

Rightly Divide Scripture – 1

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

II Timothy 2:15

- 1. This oft-quoted verse was ministerial instruction from Paul to Timothy.**
- 2. Bible words and concepts must often be divided into different senses.**
- 3. Unless division is often needed, Paul would not have stated the rule.**
- 4. The dividing process, whatever it is, requires study and a workman.**
- 5. The dividing process, if it is neglected, offends God and brings shame.**

Rightly Divide Scripture – 2

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

II Timothy 2:15

- 6. Resentment of dividing verses of scripture is ignorance or rebellion.**
- 7. God will only approve a man of God that seeks to always rightly divide.**
- 8. Bishops can be shamed without rightly dividing by easy contradictions.**
- 9. The Bible is written with this degree of difficulty to confound the wise.**
- 10. It is for this reason we love to divide the word to defend and honor God.**

What Is Dividing? – 1

- 1. It takes the same word or similar words and gives them different senses or meanings in different contexts.**
- 2. It takes similar or related concepts and gives them different senses or meanings in different contexts.**
- 3. It identifies and distinguishes various distinctions among the different ways to understand similar or related words, phrases, or passages.**
- 4. It determines which commandment or precept applies to a situation when more than one can be connected or related to the situation.**
- 5. It determines the proper priority of ranking God's commandments or attributes or any other aspect of scripture to avoid contradictions.**

Obey the Rules of Grammar - 1

1. **God chose to communicate with written language.**
2. **To rightly understand language, you must follow rules of language.**
3. **Grammar.** That department of the study of a language which deals with its inflexional forms or other means of indicating the relations of words in the sentence, and with the rules of employing these in accordance with established usage. The science which analyzes those distinctions in thought, which it is the purpose of grammatical forms more or less completely to render in expression. [OED]
4. **Grammar includes verb person, number, tenses, mood, voice, etc.**
5. **Reading is necessary to know the Bible, and so are rules of grammar.**
6. **You understand most grammar by usage without technical knowledge.**

Obey the Rules of Grammar - 2

- 7. It is hardly a rule of interpretation, for it is a rule of reading; but we must include it, for the Bible illustrates it and assumes it for doctrine.**
- 8. Most use the Bible for sound bites rather than the rules for its sense.**
- 9. Once you start changing the words, the word connections matter little.**
- 10. It would serve you well to own a college handbook of English grammar.**
- 11. This study here only introduces you to basic grammar and its effects.**
- 12. You will be accused of a nit-picking method of interpretation, unless you can remember the Bible's examples to prove the method.**

Bible Examples of Grammar for Doctrine - 1

“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”

Galatians 3:16

- 1. Our great apostle argued from the number of a noun – seed vs. seeds.**
- 2. The primary object of the promises is found in Christ, not the Jews.**
- 3. It is true ... every promises was to his “seed” from Genesis 12:7 to 24:7.**
- 4. We are the true seed of Abraham and heirs of the promise (Gal 3:29).**
- 5. Modern Bible versions corrupt the O.T. to say “descendants.”**

Bible Examples of Grammar for Doctrine - 2

“But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?”

Galatians 4:9

- 1. Paul changed the verb voice from active to passive to make a point.**
- 2. Salvation by the Arminian scheme depends on you knowing God.**
- 3. God knowing us is greater (Rom 8:29-30; Eph 1:6; II Tim 2:19).**
- 4. If the key issue is knowing God, why chase Him by law bondage?**

Bible Examples of Grammar for Doctrine - 3

“I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”

Matthew 22:32

- 1. Jesus argued a very important point of doctrine from a verb's tense.**
- 2. The Sadducees, educated grammarians, denied spirit and resurrection.**
- 3. Jesus proved resurrection of the dead by the present tense verb regarding Abraham spoken to Moses 300 years after his death (Ex 3:6).**
- 4. For the skeptics you meet, Jesus used the *italicized* word in Ex 3:6!**

Bible Examples of Grammar for Doctrine - 4

“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”

John 8:58

- 1. Jesus argued for His deity against the Jews by the tense of a verb.**
- 2. Limited by the Jews to 50 years of life, Jesus argued for eternity!**
- 3. He did not say, “Before Abraham was, I was.” He went much further!**
- 4. He used the sacred present tense God had used with Moses.**
- 5. The Jews knew the implication, for they tried to stone Him.**

Bible Examples of Grammar for Doctrine - 5

“(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

Romans 4:17

- 1. Paul recognized a verb tense “error” and used it to glorify God.**
- 2. God told Abraham he had (past tense) made him a father of many nations, when he only had Ishmael (one nation) for a son.**
- 3. Some modern Bibles correct the verb tense “error” in Genesis 17:5.**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 1

“And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

John 3:13

- 1. Poor Nicodemus ... and doctorate degree had not helped him much.**
- 2. Our Lord first told Nicodemus that He had come down from heaven.**
- 3. He then added that He was still in heaven ... for the man to consider.**
- 4. Modern translations profanely delete this glorious little phrase.**
- 5. An angel might come down, but only Jehovah Himself is omnipresent!**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 2

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13).

- 1. John used several verb tenses here, but he taught regeneration by God.**
- 2. Those who “believe” (present tense) “were born” (past tense). Amen!**
- 3. Only this construction and understanding agrees with the facts of 1:13.**
- 4. “Received him” is past tense to continue the historical mode of 1:11.**
- 5. John quickly changed from historical to present tense by “even.”**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 3

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

I Corinthians 1:18

- 1. The gospel benefits those already saved ... election, regeneration, etc.**
- 2. Only those who “are saved” (perfect tense, passive voice) can profit.**
- 3. Those perishing do not profit from it; it is foolishness to them.**
- 4. The use of verbs – a perfect tense “are” and present tense “is” shows that salvation occurred prior to receiving the gospel as God’s power.**
- 5. God must call (choose and/or regenerate) before the gospel (1:22-24).**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 4

“To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”

Ephesians 1:6

- 1. Paul taught definitively right here that our salvation depended on God accepting us through Christ, not us accepting God or Jesus Christ.**
- 2. This is the voice of the verb to accept ... is man active in the accepting, or is man passive in being accepted by another? Man is passive!**
- 3. The religious world hollers and manipulates to get sinners to accept!**
- 4. But this acceptation is something God makes happen for His glory!**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 5

“Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.”

Ephesians 5:4

- 1. Paul proved all foolish talking and jesting are sins by a verb’s number.**
- 2. Some have taken the liberty to justify “convenient jesting” by limiting this text’s condemnation only to jesting that is not convenient.**
- 3. But the plural verb “are” proves that Paul considered all three sins – filthiness, foolish talking, and jesting to be inconvenient.**
- 4. To justify jesting in any sense, you will need to look elsewhere.**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 6

“Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified” (Romans 8:30).

- 1. Paul argued for certainty of glorification by the past tense “glorified.”**
- 2. We view this “error” in a verb tense as the inspired wisdom of 4:17.**
- 3. We believe we are foreknown, predestinated, called, and justified.**
- 4. We should also believe our glorification is definitely as certain.**
- 5. If we love God (8:28), God’s purpose guarantees our glorification!**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 7

“And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

Acts 13:39

- 1. Paul argued that justification precedes faith in a good justification text.**
- 2. All that believe (plural, present) are justified (plural, perfect). Glory!**
- 3. Paul further confirmed the fact by describing it “by him,” that is Christ.**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 8

“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”

Acts 10:34-35

- 1. Paul explained to Cornelius that God had already accepted him.**
- 2. He that feareth him (singular, present) is accepted (singular, perfect).**
- 3. He that worketh (singular, present) is accepted (singular, perfect).**
- 4. We know fear and works follow grace (Rom 3:18; I John 2:29; 3:7,10).**
- 5. Being accepted with God through Jesus Christ is the key (Eph 1:6).**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 9

“And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him” (Mark 16:1).

“And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment” (Luke 23:56).

- 1. We believe three days and three nights by reading the scriptures.**
- 2. But here the women were working after a Sabbath and before one.**
- 3. The first Sabbath was the Passover, the other Sabbath the weekly.**
- 4. The women used the open day between the two to do their work.**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 10

“And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.”

Revelation 2:27

- 1. We are not waiting for Jesus to become king and rule with a rod or iron.**
- 2. He received the rod of iron rule (past tense) from His Father already.**
- 3. We read Psalm 2 and know it was fulfilled at our Lord’s first coming and His resurrection (Acts 13:33; Rom 1:4; Heb 1:4-5).**
- 4. We are not looking for some Jewish millennium in the future.**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 11

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.”

I Timothy 1:12

- 1. God counted Paul faithful before conversion by virtue of verb tenses.**
- 2. The coordinating conjunction “for” gives Paul’s faithfulness as a factor.**
- 3. God measured Paul according to his knowledge, which was unbelief.**
- 4. He claimed late in life he served God with a pure conscience (Ac 23:1).**
- 5. The testimony of the Holy Spirit regarding Asa confirms (I Kings 15:14).**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 12

“Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value.”

Matthew 27:9

- 1. We make hay with Mark 1:2 and its flagrant error in modern versions.**
- 2. But the King James gives Jeremiah credit for this text, and there is no such quotation to be found in the book of Jeremiah. Are we hypocrites?**
- 3. The quotation is in Zechariah 11:12-13 instead! Are we hypocrites?**
- 4. Zechariah *wrote* what Jeremiah *spoke* and tells us so (Zec 1:4; 7:7,12).**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 13

Remember the *prophetic perspective* that uses future tense verbs in N.T. quotations of O.T. prophets that were already fulfilled or being fulfilled.

1. Acts 2:17-21 was future to Joel, not to Peter. It happened at Pentecost.
2. Acts 15:16-17 was future to Amos, not to James. It happened with Paul.
3. Romans 11:26-27 was future to Isaiah, not to Paul. Christ fulfilled it.
4. Hebrews 8:8-12 was future to Jeremiah, not to Paul. Christ fulfilled it.
5. Hebrews 12:26 was future to Haggai, not to Paul. Christ fulfilled it.

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 14

“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

Acts 2:41

- 1. Some teach that baptism and membership are simultaneous here.**
- 2. “Then” is a conjunctive adverb that connects the independent clause of 2:40 with the first and only the first dependent clause of 2:41.**
- 3. The two independent clauses of 2:41 have different time frames.**
- 4. The two independent clauses of 2:41 have two distinct subjects.**
- 5. The colon between the clauses is next to the period in disconnection.**
- 6. The coordinating conjunction “and” connects subsequent actions.**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 15

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water” (I Pet 3:18-20).

- 1. Long and complicated sentences must fit the doctrine of scripture.**
- 2. Jesus went by His Spirit and preached to spirits now in prison.**
- 3. But they were not in prison when they disobeyed before the Flood.**
- 4. But they were not in prison when Noah preached to them (II Pet 2:5).**
- 5. We reject the Apostles’ Creed that Jesus descended into hell, for He committed His spirit into the hands of God, not to the prison warden!**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 16

“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Rev 13:8).

- 1. This verse is short, but it has five consecutive prepositional phrases.**
- 2. Men will preach about the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world!**
- 3. But the word “slain” is a participial adjective simply modifying Lamb.**
- 4. The preposition “from,” as prepositions do, tells us at what time the names were not written in the book.**
- 5. We confirm our doctrine by comparing Revelation 17:8 and Gal 4:4.**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 17

Use Psalm 105 for an exercise in pronouns and antecedents.

- 1. In 105:36, what is the antecedent of “their”? Egypt and Ham from 23,27.**
- 2. In 105:37, what is the antecedent of “them”? Israel from back in 23.**
- 3. In 105:28, what is the antecedent of “they”? Who did not rebel?**

Daniel 11 has intriguing pronouns clarified only by context and history.

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 18

“But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood” (Galatians 1:15-16).

- 1. Some teach from here that Paul was regenerated at time of birth.**
- 2. It is a nice thought, but there is no way to prove it grammatically.**
- 3. Commas set off two non-restrictive phrases unrelated to each other.**
- 4. Both describe God’s calling of Paul to the ministry (Jer 1:5; Rom 1:1).**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 19

“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” (Acts 2:38).

- 1. This is the favorite of the Campbellites to prove baptismal salvation.**
- 2. Some defend that “anointed” may be substituted for Christ to read, “baptism in the name of Jesus anointed for the remission of sins.”**
- 3. But Jesus Christ is a noun, so a participial adjective cannot be inserted.**
- 4. But the preposition “for” modifies baptism, not the invented adjective.**
- 5. We know the preposition “for” means “in testimony of,” as proven by I Peter 3:21, and illustrated by Mark 1:40-44.**

Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 20

1. *Italics* are used to identify something unusual about the use of a word.
2. The King James Version has *italics* for interpolated words in translation.
3. One of A.W. Pink's rules for interpretation is to ignore *italicized* words.
4. Jesus used italicized words (Matt 22:32 cp Ex 3:6; Matt 4:4 cp Deut 8:8).
5. Peter also used the italicized words (Acts 2:25 cp Psalm 16:8).
6. Who did killed Goliath in II Samuel 21:19 according to Mr. Pink?

Case Study: Thee's and Thou's – (1)

- 1. Men ridicule the King James Version for its *thee's* and *thou's*.**
- 2. New Bibles are published excitedly without any *thee's* and *thou's*.**
- 3. If jots and tittles are important (Matt 5:18), surely pronouns are as well.**
- 4. Your King James was written in High English, unspoken since about 1300 and not used by the translators in their preface and dedication.**
- 5. Thee's and thou's are needed for accurate second person identification.**
- 6. Thee's and thou's provide a reverence in speech unknown today.**
- 7. They whine about the “originals,” but it takes *thee's* and *thou's* to match the second person pronouns in Hebrew and Greek.**

Case Study: Thee's and Thou's – (2)

1. Second person pronouns in modern English are *you*, *your*, and *yours*.
2. You cannot tell if one or more persons are referenced by the pronouns.
3. But High English uses *thee*, *thou*, *thy*, and *thine* for single persons.
4. High English uses *ye*, *you*, *your*, and *yours* for two or more persons.
5. Remember ... T pronouns are singular, and Y pronouns are plural!
6. They boast of new translations closer to the “original languages” than the King James, but they corrupt the pronouns the King James has!
7. For more, see ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/bible/scripture/thee-and-thou.htm>.

Case Study: Thee's and Thou's – (3)

**“Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”
John 3:7**

- 1. Some teach that Nicodemus was already born again by this sentence.**
- 2. Others teach Nicodemus was desperately in need of being born again.**
- 3. The true sense is that contrary to Nicodemus's knowledge, men in general were in need of the new birth to see or enter the kingdom.**
- 4. How do we know? By the distinction between Nicodemus with the singular pronoun “thee” and the general rule with the plural “ye.”**
- 5. Bible versions that make both pronouns “you” corrupt the text.**

Case Study: Thee's and Thou's – (4)

“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren” (Luke 22:31-32).

- 1. The plural pronoun “you” describes Satan’s desire for all the apostles.**
- 2. The singular pronouns “thee” and “thy” and “thou” and “thy” refer to Peter specifically, for they are singular pronouns for him only.**
- 3. The implied lesson is that Satan desires to sift all the children of God, but Jesus Christ takes individual and personal care to protect His own.**

Case Study: Thee's and Thou's – (5)

“But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven” (Matthew 26:63-64).

- 1. The high priest of the Jews interrogated our Lord Jesus Christ about the obvious (notice the singular pronouns)!**
- 2. Jesus admitted his identify by referring to the high priest's question.**
- 3. But then He had a little warning for a plurality of those participating – they would see Him coming in judgment in 40 years to destroy them!**

Case Study: Do Commas Matter? – (1)

“Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years” (Exodus 12:40 in the King James Version).

“Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years” (Exodus 12:40 in the New International Version).

- 1. The verses are saying different things. What happened for 430 years?**
- 2. A non-restrictive phrase does not alter the sentence without it.**
- 3. Paul taught that it was 430 years from Abraham to Sinai (Gal 3:17), and Jacob and his sons were chronologically in Egypt for only 215 years.**
- 4. For more see ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/bible/scripture/do-commas-matter.htm>.**

Case Study: Do Commas Matter? – (2)

“And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43 in the King James Version).

“And he said to him: ‘Truly I tell you today, You will be with me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43 in the New World Translation of the Russellites).

- 1. The Jehovah’s Witnesses do not believe absence from the body is to be present with the Lord, so they altered the verse by moving a comma.**
- 2. We know exactly where Jesus and the thief went that day – to Paradise, the third heaven, the abode of God (Luke 23:46; II Cor 12:1-4; Lu 16:22).**

Case Study: Do Commas Matter? – (3)

“But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom” (Hebrews 1:8 in the King James Version).

“But with reference to the Son: ‘God is your throne forever and ever, and the scepter of your kingdom is the scepter of uprightness’ (Hebrews 1:8 in the New World Translation of the Russellites).

- 1. Can you find any doctrine corrupted here?**
- 2. Who does the King James Version address as God?**
- 3. Who is the throne forever and ever in the New World Translation?**

Case Study: Genitive Phrases

See study done previously:

<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/genitive-case.pdf>

Case Study: Grammar of Regeneration

See study done previously.