



Some Bible Knowledge is Critical.

Most of the critical scriptural "dots" really DO "connect"
 ...for those who learn how to study God's written word.
 But most believers learn only what to study
 ...to confirm denominational Doctrines.
 This series can help.

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If you're like most people we know you've been in church most of your life and you may even have read the Bible from cover to cover. Still, though, some of the important Bible "dots" just won't "connect" for you. Would you be surprised to learn that you're not alone? Would you also be surprised to find out that most of those "dots" really DO connect?

One lady told me her preacher keeps saying not to worry about understanding all the scriptures: He says that Christians should just have faith and keep believing and praying and staying active in church and such as that. She thinks he's talking *down* to her and to everyone else in her church. That ever happen to you? Why would anyone do that to a fellow believer? What's the likelihood, in YOUR mind, that God would've given us His Written Word in a form that only church officials can understand?

During the 18 Centuries of church history after Jesus and the apostles ministered here, professional Christians (those who get paid for it) were very pleased that most believers couldn't read and write. Those believers had no choice but to trust their preachers to connect the Biblical "dots" for them. Because you're reading this, you DO have a choice. God has made that really clear: "Thus saith the LORD; 'Cursed be the man that trusteth in man...'" That's at Jeremiah 17:5. At 2 Timothy 2:15, the apostle Paul wrote, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

> "My people are destroyed for lack of KNOWLEDGE..." —Hosea 4:6

God has made it really easy for us to understand that He expects each believer to get knowledge. But what knowledge? The primary purpose of this series is to help you discover the knowledge we think will be CRITICAL if you want the Bible "dots" to start connecting for you. At some point while you're discovering that knowledge, we pray that you will start gaining a really strong appetite for a lot more of it. You may also learn HOW to go about getting the knowledge and understanding that God wants each of us to have.

For months, now, I've been plagued with several recurring questions...questions like these:

> Why is the typical Sunday morning sermon a "salvation" sermon? Did Jesus tell the church to focus on getting people "saved"? Isn't The Great Commission all about making Disciples of people who've already heard the Gospel message and believed it? "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..." Jesus said that at Matthew 28:19,20 [NIV]. What's the possible value of a church full of **Believers**? And what church do YOU know of that's full of **Disciples**?

The Great Commission was/is NOT for career professional "ministers," but to EVERYBODY who'll choose to follow Jesus. But how can a person hope to fulfill The Great Commission if they don't even know that the critical scriptural "dots" really DO connect? Is there anyone in the visible church helping them to learn that?

Then I got to thinking about some of the other differences between Believers and Disciples. I decided that Believers are like people who enjoy football enough to watch a game on TV occasionally. And I decided that the *real* football fans (the ones who can tell you the game stats from last season and the key player stats for the last five years) are more like Christian Disciples.

> Why are most church people familiar only with what the Bible calls scriptural "milk,"[^] as opposed to Bible "meat"? The critical Bible "dots" will never connect for believers who're presented with a new "salvation sermon" every week. Many of those who warm the church pews want *real* answers to their Bible questions! When their preachers, for whatever reason, can't or won't show them how to find those answers, they'll never be able to connect the really important "dots." And many of them would start digging through the scriptures for those answers—if they only knew how and where to dig and what to look for!

^ "For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age..." —Hebrews 5:13,14

^ "MY PEOPLE ARE DESTROYED FOR LACK OF [*righteousnes?*] [*sincerity?*] [*worship?*] [*faith?*] [*getting 'truly 'saved'?*] [*holiness?*] [*hyperspirituality?*] [*believing 'what 'we' believe'?*] [*regular church attendance?*] KNOWLEDGE..." —Hosea 4:6

> Why are so many church people attracted to smooth-talking motivational speakers—the ones who pretend to be knowledgeable students of the Bible? Do those guys teach people how to connect the Bible "dots"?

- > Why do so many Christians think preachers are the only ones who can connect the scriptural "dots?"
- > Why do so many church people find it almost impossible to find a preacher who'll even *discuss* things in the Bible that are controversial? And why do some (not all) of their preachers even become angry whenever they're asked questions about "things that just don't add up?"

Are you a doubting Thomas? If not, have you ever been accused of it? Have you ever heard or seen something in church that didn't sound or *feel* quite right? If so, have you kept your questions to yourself? Have you also felt guilty about having those thoughts and feelings? If so, then we have something in common. That may be our key to learning what's true and what's new. An awful lot of "new time religion" is getting passed off as "old time religion" today.

Some of the critical Bible facts you'll discover in this series are controversial. Some of them are even of an "adult" nature. Where God's word has made it plain I'll do that, too. God did not intend for His word to be a mystery. He intended for us to understand it! We pray that this series will help to accomplish that objective for YOU.

In the next article you can learn some facts about Noah's Flood that you may NEVER learn in church...

T. C. Newsome

—a collaborative effort with several other members of our **Link1**[™] Bible Research Team

