

“PASSAGES THAT DEFINE WORDS AND IDEAS, II”

Last week we introduced certain passages that explained ideas and words and we continue this thought in this week's lesson. It is important to allow the Bible to speak for itself and explain what is meant by certain passages. We continue to think in this direction, this week.

Eph. 1:22-23 – Eph. 4:4; *“22 and he put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.”* In this context we learn the **church is the body**. When we use the word church, we mean the body, and when we use the word body, we mean the church! When then, we read in Eph. 4:4, *“4 There is one body,”* God means there is **ONE church**. We are told, by the world, there are many “churches; yet God says, in his word, there is only **ONE! This one body, or one church,** is stated as being the **“Lord’s Church,”** in Matt. 16:18. The Lord is the builder of his church.

Jno. 3:5 - I Cor. 12:13: *“5 Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God,”* Jno. 3:5. *“13 For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body,”* I Cor. 12:13. These two passages need to be paralleled. Put the one above the other: Born of water and Spirit and enter the kingdom, Jno. 3:5. By one Spirit we are baptized into one body, I Cor. 12:13. In these passages the Spirit is parallel; In these passages the water and baptism are parallel, (the only thing in the New Testament that has water associated with it is baptism); In these passages the kingdom and body are parallel. Thus, the thought expressed is: **By one Spirit we are instructed to be baptized in water to enter the kingdom or the church.** The kingdom and the church are the same people.

Matt. 19:24 - Mk. 10:24-25; *“24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through a needle’s eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God,”* Matt. 19:24. The type of rich man being discussed, it is impossible for him to go through a needles eye; and thus, impossible for this person to enter the kingdom. W. E. Vine’s says this needle is a **sewing needle**; thus, impossible to go through. The type of “rich man” being talked about – it is impossible for them to be saved! When we look at Mk. 10:24-25, we find this: *“24 Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through a needle’s eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God,”* Mk. 10:24-25 . This last passage tells us what kind of rich man cannot enter the kingdom of God – the **RICH MAN THAT TRUSTS IN HIS RICHES!** Here again we have a passage explaining what is said in Matt. 19:24. In this the New Testament explains its own meaning.

There are many times when the New and Old Testament will make a statement; and at some other text, explain what is being talked about. It becomes our duty and responsibility to find these passages and make the necessary application. This is the reason for the statement: *“4 Whereby, when ye read, ye can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ,”* Eph. 3:4. It is our duty to read and study the message God has given unto us and come to understand God’s Word as he has intended for us to know.

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Carl Adon Allen
1115 E. Houston Ave.
Crockett, Tx. 75835
(936) 544-3614
carladonallen@gmail.com