INTRODUCTION:

A. Acts 8:26-35 – “As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza."

27 So he did, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship,

28 and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

29 The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage."

30 Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah; so he asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

31 The man replied, "How can I, when there is no one to instruct me?" And he begged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

32 The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter. And as a lamb is silent before the shearsers, he did not open his mouth.

33 He was humiliated and received no justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth."

34 The eunuch asked Philip, "Was Isaiah talking about himself or someone else?"

35 So Philip began with this same Scripture and then used many others to tell him the Good News about Jesus.

B. The Bible is:

1. The world’s best seller.
2. The world’s most popular book.
3. The world’s most influential book.
4. The world’s most misunderstood book.

C. The Bible says:

1. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2. 2 Timothy 3:15 – “And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

3. Psalm 119:105 – “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
4. Psalm 119:104 – “Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.”

5. Matthew 22:29 – “Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God."

D. In studying the Bible . . .
   1. Some understand it the way God wanted them to.
   2. Some fail to understand by not really trying to understand.
   3. Some misunderstand the Bible.

SOME MISUNDERSTAND THE WHOLE BIBLE.

A. They misunderstand its source . . . The think it is a human book put off
   on the world as a pious fraud.
   1. This is not so!
   2. The Bible is the inspired message of God.
      a. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is
         profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in
         righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly
         equipped for every good work.
      b. 2 Peter 1:21 – “For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy
         men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

B. Some misunderstand the purpose of the Bible; they think it is a fable.
   1. It is here to furnish us . . . To outfit us . . . to equip us . . . To prepare us for
      everything God wants us to do on this earth.
   2. The true and living God has seen fit to give His creation a book to be
      guided by . . . It is the Bible.
   3. The Bible gives man a message of guidance and hope.

C. Some misunderstand its indestructibility; hence, many have vainly
   sought to destroy it.
   1. In centuries past people have been put to death for possessing a copy of
      the Scriptures.
   2. History documents that even religious leaders have outlawed its reading by
      the common people.
   3. There was a time when a major denominational group taught its members
      that purgatory awaited them if they read from the Bible.
   4. If every Bible could be destroyed, it could be reproduced easily from the
      thousands of other books which quote it.
      a. And if that were not possible, it still would not be fully destroyed.
      b. It would still appear to face us in the judgment.
         1. Mark 13:31 – “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by
            no means pass away.”
         2. John 12:48 – “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words,
has that which judges him -- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”

3. **Revelation 20:12** – “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”

**SOME MISUNDERSTAND THE TESTAMENTS . . . BOTH OLD AND NEW.**

A. Consequently, they are just as apt to go to the book of Psalms as to the book of Acts to find the plan of salvation.
   1. This error is the father of many other errors.
   2. The Bible must be rightly divided. **2 Timothy 2:15**

B. We are now living under the reign and rule of the New Testament.
   1. The law of Moses has been fulfilled.
   2. It was to last until Christ came. **Galatians 3:19** – “What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.”
   3. Jesus nailed it to the cross. **Colossians 2:14** – “Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.
   4. The first covenant was taken away that we might have the second.
      a. **Hebrews 10:9** – “. . . He takes away the first that He may establish the second.”
      b. **Ephesians 2:15** (NLT) – “By his death he ended the whole system of Jewish law that excluded the Gentiles . . .”
   5. Today we must hear Christ.
      a. **Matthew 17:5** – “But even as he said it, a bright cloud came over them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my beloved Son, and I am fully pleased with him. Listen to him.’”
      b. **Hebrews 1:1-2** – “Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. But now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he made the universe and everything in it.”

**SOME MISUNDERSTAND THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE.**

A. The Old Testament book point forward to Christ’s coming into the world.
   1. There are over 300 prophecies concerning Jesus in the Old Testament.
2. The first prophecy given in the Bible has to do with Jesus.  
   *Genesis 3:15* – “And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

3. The Mosaic Law was a schoolmaster/tutor to bring mankind to Christ.  
   *Galatians 3:24* – “Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

4. The thread of Christ is woven throughout the Old New Testament from Genesis 3:15 on.

**B.** The New Testament books point backward to Christ having come and forward to His return at the end of time.

1. Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John are books of evidence to create faith in Christ Jesus.  
   *John 20:30-31* – “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”


3. Twenty one epistles were written to individuals and churches to instruct Christians how to live in Christ.

4. Revelation showed our suffering 1st century brethren that they will win and Rome will lose as it gave them a glimpse of future blessings for God’s people.

**C.** Some people misunderstand the chapters of the Bible.

1. They think the Bible came down from God already broken into chapters . . . Not so! . . . Not so!

2. Cardinal Hugo made the chapter divisions in 1250 A.D., some _____ years ago.

3. The break in chapters often contributes to misunderstanding because it breaks the thought given in a context.

4. Example: Some think the baptism of the Holy Spirit came upon the 120 in Acts 1. But, if you read Acts 1:26 along with Acts 2:1-13 as if there were no chapter break, you will see that the apostles were the ones baptized with the Holy Spirit.

**D.** Some people misunderstand the verses of the Bible.

1. They are not aware that the Bible did not come from God already broken down into verses.

2. Robert Stevens did that in 1551 A.D., some ______ years ago.

3. Many expect too much from one verse.
   a. They expect to get the whole plan of salvation from one verse.
   b. But there is no one verse in the Bible that gives the whole plan of salvation.
c. We must take the whole counsel of God. Acts 20:7 – “For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”
d. Psalm 119:160 – “The sum of Your word is truth . . .”

SOME MISUNDERSTAND THE PHRASES IN THE BIBLE.
A. They misunderstand such a simple phrase as, He that believes and is baptized shall be saved . . .” Mark 16:16
   1. They try to place salvation before baptism.
   2. They try to get the passage to say, “He that is saved shall be baptized.”
B. Many misunderstand Acts 2:38 – “. . . Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins . . .”
   1. They try to get the remission of sins before baptism.
   2. Repentance and remission of sins are joined together by the copulative conjunction “and” (a conjunction which couples words and phrases) and points to the same object which is the remission of sins.
   3. Some misunderstand the word “for” in this verse.
      a. They say it means “because of” – be baptized because of the remission of sins.
      b. However, it means in Acts 2:38 what it means in Matthew 26:28 “. . . blood . . . shed . . . for remission of sins” – not that Jesus shed His blood because our sins were already remitted. He shed His blood in order for them to be remitted.
C. Many misunderstand John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
   1. Many denominational preachers have been misreading and misquoting that Verse all of their lives and ministry. They read it to say: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him “would” not or “will” not perish but have everlasting life.
   2. They believe that by believe one becomes a Christian and will always be saved regardless.
   3. The passage says that if you believe you SHOULD be saved . . . It does not say you WOULD be saved. Believing leads to obedience . . . Obedience leads to faithfulness . . . etc.

SOME MISUNDERSTAND THE WORDS IN THE BIBLE.
A. Repentance means more than reformation. Matthew 3:8 – “Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance.”
B. The dictionary defines baptism as sprinkling, pouring, and immersion.
   1. Man, not God, wrote the dictionary.
2. The function of a dictionary is to give the current usage of a word, but may not have any bearing on the original and scriptural meaning of the word . . . Which in this case means to dip or immerse.

3. **John 3:23** – “Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because **there was much water** there. And they came and were baptized.

4. **Romans 6:3-4** – “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5. **Acts 8:36-39** – “Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"

   Then Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’

   So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And **both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water**, (Don’t have to go into the water for pouring or sprinkling. Could stand on the shore and do that. Immersion requires going into the water) and he baptized him.

   Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.”

**CONCLUSION:**

A. Some . . . Yea many . . . misunderstand:
   1. The whole Bible
   2. The Testaments – Old & New
   3. The Books of the Bible
   4. The Chapters of the Bible
   5. The Verses of the Bible.
   6. The Phrases of the Bible.
   7. The Words of the Bible.

B. **Acts 8:30** – “. . .Do you understand what you are reading?”

C. Someone has written:
   - To **KNOW** the will of God is the Greatest **KNOWLEDGE**.
   - To **FIND** the Will of God is the Greatest **DISCOVERY**.
   - To **DO** the Will of God is the Greatest **ACHIEVEMENT**.

C. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**