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## Does the Bible have many interpretations?

ABSOLUTELY NOT!

Often those who aren't familiar with the Bible or those who are critical of the Bible will say, "The Bible has many interpretations," or "nobody can be sure what the Bible teaches because so many people interpret the Bible differently."

The truth is that the Bible is written very clearly. An honest person cannot deny the single, obvious interpretation God expects every man to deduce. For example, when the Bible says in Romans 3:10-12, 23:

*As it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE. . . for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:10-12,23)*

A sincere person would have to admit that this text from the Bible teaches that men are sinners and do not, by human nature, seek after God. The truth deduced from this text is not a matter of interpretation but an honest reading of the text.

All the major teachings of the Scripture are as clear as a bell! Now of course, on some of the minor points of Scriptures, believers may disagree, such as should baptism be by immersion or sprinkling, but those are not the interpretations the skeptics are attacking. The skeptics are claiming that nobody can be sure about the Bible's teaching on God and salvation, and this simply is not true. God has seen fit to make the Scripture very clear on what is important and to test the discernment of believers in the minor issues.

Why then are there so many Christian denominations and sects? Doesn't the fact of divisions in Christianity indicate that the Bible must have various interpretations? No, it does not.

Some of the divisions of Christianity are based on cultural and regional divisions; others are based on doctrine. Those that know Christianity, understand that Christians do not disagree on the basic doctrines of the faith.

Those denomination or cults that do stray from the basic tenets of Christianity are those that always derive their teaching outside the Bible, such as the book of Mormon, traditions of the papacy, or simple unbelief in the Bible. But the Bible itself does not create such doctrinal division.

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