

A NECESSARY PRINCIPLE OF EFFECTIVE BIBLE STUDY

Matthew 7:7 and Acts 16:31

The Verses...

- Matthew 7:7 – “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”
- Acts 16:31 – “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Matthew 7:7 and Acts 16:31

SIMILARITIES

Similarities...

Both are the Teaching of Christ

- Matt. 7:7 is part of Jesus' sermon on the mount.
- Acts 16:31 was taught in connection with the Great Commission.
 - Holy Spirit would guide them – Jn. 16:12-14
 - They were to teach the world to obey Christ's commandments – Matt. 28:20
 - They taught Christ's words – 1 Cor. 14:37

Similarities...

Both are Commands

- Both are commands given in the Greek *imperative mood*.
- Both have a *promise* attached to the command.
 - Matt. 7:7 – Ask and “**it will be given to you.**”
 - Acts 16:31 – Believe and “**...you will be saved.**”
- Both present the **command** as being the **condition** for receiving the promise.

Similarities...

Both Address Things Necessary for Salvation

- Acts 16:31 commands “belief” – Jn. 8:24; Heb. 11:6
- Matthew 7:7 commands “asking”:
 - God saves those who call upon the name of the Lord
 - Acts 2:21
 - Call means to appeal to, to plead with someone on your behalf
 - Paul’s sins were washed away by calling on the name of the Lord in baptism – Acts 22:16
 - Baptism is an appeal to God for salvation (1 Pet. 3:21 – NASB)

Similarities...

Both Verses...

- Are words of Christ
- Are given in the form of a command
- Attach a promise to the command
- Deal with a necessary response in order to receive salvation

Applying the Necessary Principle for Effective Bible Study

All verses, including Matthew 7:7 and Acts 16:32, can only be correctly understood by harmonizing them with **ALL** other verses that address the same subject matter.

By Studying Only...

- Matthew 7:7 no one can draw an accurate conclusion from "knocking" and "opening" the door.
- Acts 13:46-48 "I have been saved."

Both verses are qualified by other verses!

Matthew 7:7 Qualified

- Must ask in faith – James 1:5-7
- Must keep His commandments – 1 Jn. 3:22
- Must ask according to His will – 1 Jn. 5:14-15
- Must abide in Jesus and His words in us – Jn. 15:7
- Must live righteously while praying fervently – Jas. 5:16; 1 Pet. 3:12
- Must not ask out of selfish or sinful motives – Jas. 4:2-3

Acts 16:31 Qualified

- Belief plus repentance – Acts 20:20-21; 3:19
- Belief plus confession with the mouth – Rom. 10:9-10
- Belief plus baptism – Mark 16:15-16
 - “And” connects belief and baptism as it does confession and belief in Rom. 10:9-10
 - The connection of the two results in salvation – (Jailor - Acts 16:33-34)

Acts 16:31 Qualified

- Belief plus obedience – Acts 15:9; 1 Pet. 1:22
 - Obey or be condemned – 2 Thess. 1:8
 - Jesus saves those who obey – Heb. 5:8-9
 - Belief is only made complete through works of obedience – Jas. 2:14-26
- Belief plus love – 1 John 3:23

The Necessary Principle Has Been Illustrated

- The teaching of any one verse of Scripture must harmonize with all other verses of Scripture that address that same subject.
- One scripture may be qualified or clarified by other scripture – Psa. 119:160
- In answering the Devil, Jesus showed this principle is both **sound** and **necessary** – Matt. 4:6-7

Conclusion

- The sum of all that God says on any subject is the truth on that subject.
- We should seek the whole truth that we might obey it and teach it to others.
- What will you do with God's truth taught today?