

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...

- They are the *teaching of Jesus*
 - Matt. 7:7 is part of Jesus' sermon on the mount.
 - Acts 16:31 was taught in connection with the Great Commission – Mk. 16:15; 1 Thess. 2:9; 1 Cor. 14:37
- They are statements of God's *truth* – Psa. 119:160; Jn. 17:17; 16:12-15
- They are *commands*, given in the imperative mood
- They have a *promise* connected to the command.

Similarities...

- They speak of things necessary for salvation
- In Acts 16:31 belief was commanded of a lost sinner seeking salvation – Jn. 8:24
- In Matt. 7:7, the asking is necessary for salvation.
 - Only one who “calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” – Acts 2:21
 - Call – to call upon in one’s behalf, to appeal unto, to please with – *Thayer*
 - We must appeal to, or ask, God for salvation – Acts 22:16; Heb. 11:6

The Necessary Principle for Effective Bible Study

All verses of scripture can only be
correctly understood when
harmonized with all other verses of
scriptures that address the same
subject

The Principle Exemplified

- Jesus is tempted by Satan – Matthew 4:6-7
- The Devil quotes Psa. 91:11-12 and presents it as the fullness of God's truth – 4:6
- Jesus answers by quoting Deut. 6:16 as a qualifying verse! – 4:7
- Jesus proves the principle to be sound!
- Application: Truth about asking and believing cannot be determined by Matt. 7:7 and Acts 16:31 alone

Matthew 7:7 and ASKING

Are we to assume Jesus taught that
asking something of the Father is
unqualified?

Matthew 7:7 is qualified by...

- The **immediate context**, showing God only gives **good things** – Mt. 7:7-11
- Asking in **faith** – James 1:5-7
- **Faithfulness** in keeping His commandments – 1 Jn. 3:22; 1 Pet. 3:12
- Asking according to His will – 1 Jn. 5:14-15; Jsa. 4:2-3
- Asking fervently – Jas. 5:16
- No one can scripturally deny the necessity of these qualifications on asking!

Acts 16:31 and BELIEVING

Are we to assume that Paul taught the
Philippian jailor that all he and his
family had to do to be saved was
believe?

Acts 16:31 is qualified by...

- The **immediate context**, which shows that only after hearing the word and obeying it was he said to have **believed** – Acts 16:32-33
- The **broader context** shows that one must **obey** to truly believe – Jas. 2:20-26
- Belief in the **gospel** and **obedience** to the gospel – Rom. 1:16; 2 Thess. 1:8; Heb. 5:8-9
- The necessity of **repentance** – Acts 3:19; 20:20-21
- The necessity of **confession** with the **mouth** – Rom. 10:9-10
- The necessity of **baptism** – Mark 16:15-16