

## Of Parrots and Men

by Wm Tipton

When considering the differences between a parrot and a man, one thing that would come to mind is the parrot's ability to learn to repeat words and phrases. A parrot can be taught to speak, but it cannot be taught to reason out why it is saying what it does.

It can repeat words and phrases, but it will never understand the intent and meaning behind those things.

Regretfully, some men come to the scriptures in this same manner.

Im sure for those of us who have been believers for very long, we can think of at least one doctrine that we've crossed in our lives that we simply cannot accept because the whole word of God proves that it doesn't preach the truth, but these doctrines always have passages that they repeat as the parrot does that may say exactly what they believe that they do, but like the parrot, they have not fully grasped the intent, but are merely spewing forth the syllables.

Gods word tells men to 'rightly divide the word of truth'.

Thats a very peculiar statement, in my opinion, because what is the reasoning? Why does one have to 'rightly divide' anything? Cannot we simply parrot what it says line by line and get the true meaning ?

Give the parrot a phrase and it will learn it well...even teach the parrot a list of phrases and they are quite capable of being able to retain the words.

But try to teach a parrot to understand...to comprehend...to rightly divide those phrases into any coherent thought and you'll quickly find that your wasting your time.

Repeating words and small phrases is not necessarily the same as understanding them...

Repeating words on pages is not necessarily the same thing as having learned the true intent of those passages.

One teaching that always comes to mind when Im on this line of thought is Hypercalvinism.

This doctrine can be quite convincing because there are many convincing scriptures that show that men have no choices in this life but seem to show that we were chosen, even against our will if possible, from the foundation of the world.

Scriptures such as these...

*According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

*(Eph 1:4-5 KJV)*

and...

*(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,*

*(Rom 9:11-23 KJV)*

Which SEEM to show very clearly that we are chosen before by God whether we want to be or know we are and then we have no choice of our own free will in the matter.

If you argue against the Hypercalvinist...and even some regular ones....they will say foul things to you and insist that you are questioning Gods sovereignty in the matter.

They will say things like: "I'm not saying anything- all I've done is quote scriptures"  
...and they would be quite correct.

All they HAVE done for the most part is simply parrot off the very clear wording of the scriptures...of that there is NO doubt whatsoever as I've been in direct discourse with a few of them and trust me, they do a very good job at just quoting scriptures.

But the hypercalvinist misses other subtle key points, such as..

*Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*

*(2Ti 2:10 KJV)*

Showing that even the elect are not absolutely guaranteed a free ride....otherwise there is no point in Pauls enduring anything that they "may also obtain" this salvation...it would be a given that they WOULD obtain regardless if this doctrine were actually truth.

Yes, the Hypercalvinist..as well as the anti-remarriager and many other persons of a multitude of doctrines has only quoted scripture.

But remember above about 'rightly dividing the word of truth' ?...isn't THAT what we are called to do instead of being parrots ?

Anyone can pick up a bible and simply quote scripture.

A man read this to me one time some years ago..

*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*

*(Rev 3:20 KJV)*

The man then started laughing "stand at the door and knock....come in and sup with him? "

This man knew the words, knew what they said, but he did not understand the meaning of our Lords words.

Yes, the words literally say that He stands at the door and knocks....but we all know that that doesnt mean at the door to our literal home...or that Jesus means that He will enter into that house and sit down in front of the TV with us to sup with us with our pork chops and applesauce.

This man could parrot off that passage and say what he thought it meant, but he seemed to simply lack the understanding of the intent and so to him it only was talking about knocking at a front door and having a home cooked meal.

Now, that is one of the more extreme examples I've crossed in my own life, but we can rest assured that many of the false doctrines out there are by people who are only 'quoting scripture' as it is written.

But these are not 'rightly dividing' the word of truth so to understand what it says as a whole.