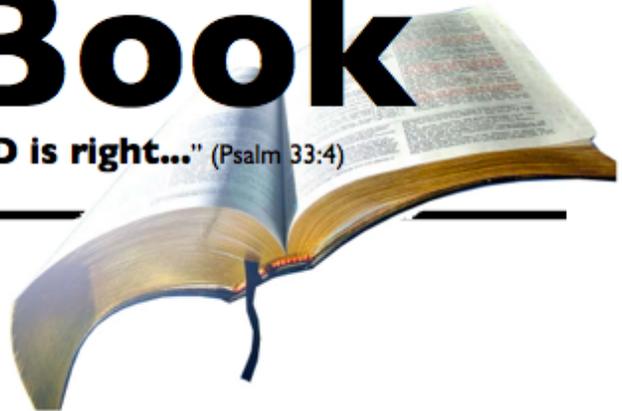


# By The Book

**"For the word of the LORD is right..."** (Psalm 33:4)



**One of the greatest days of my life** was when I decided to put away all of my Bible commentaries and simply compare Scripture with Scripture. I did not throw them away. They can be helpful, however, they can also be very misleading.

For example, in Matthew 7:13-14 Jesus said,

*"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."*

**Every commentary** I checked suggested that this portion of Scripture is talking about unsaved people finding their way to Heaven. While this may be a viable application it is obvious when we keep the text in its context that Jesus was talking to people who were already on the road to Heaven.

## **The Context Is Strictly Christians** **Matthew Chapter 5**

**V.1**, "...his disciples came unto him:

**V.2**, "And he...taught them."

**V.13**, "Ye are the salt of the earth."

**V.12**, "...your reward in heaven."

**V.14**, "Ye are the light of the world."

**V.16**, "...your Father which is in heaven."

**V.16**, "...Let your light so shine before men."

**V.48** - "...your Father which is in heaven."

### **Chapter 6**

**V. 1**, "...your Father which is in heaven."

**V. 32**, "...your heavenly Father."

### **Chapter 7**

**V.11**, "...your Father which is in heaven."

Obviously, Christ was talking to people who were already on the road to Heaven.

- The phrase "I say unto you/thee" occurs fourteen times.
- The word "your" occurs twenty-three times
- The word "you" occurs thirty-four times.
- The word "ye" occurs forty-eight times.

It is very obvious the people Jesus was talking to in this portion of Scripture already had eternal life. In chapter 7:13-14, Jesus was still talking to the same people when He said,

*"Enter **ye** in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."*



## “Few There Be That Find It”

Christ was talking to His disciples about living the abundant life. He was talking to Christians about, “...*the peace of God, which passeth all understanding*” (Philippians 4:7) This peace that is beyond understanding is available to all Christians and yet, “*few there be that find it.*”

### Beware of Man-written Notes

The marginal reference in my Scofield Bible says the word “*life*” here means “*eternal life.*” How could someone of Scofield’s ability to teach the Scriptures miss that? I checked at least a dozen Bible commentaries written by my heroes in the faith and they all said this was talking about people getting saved. How could they miss the fact that they have to take this text totally out of context to come to that conclusion?

I don’t know; however, I do know that one of the best days of my life was when I decided to purchase a Bible with no footnotes and simply study the Bible comparing Scripture with Scripture. For the first thirty-five years of my life I was too lazy to do that.

From my early days as a Christian I have used the Scofield Reference Bible. Although Scofield has some very helpful notes I do not recommend it anymore.

**“SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES”**

JOHN 5:39

## Scofield’s Note On A Universal Church

Scofield helped to open the door to a tragic distortion of Scripture concerning the so-called universal church.

**Acts 2:41** says,

*“The same day there was added unto them about three thousand souls.”*

Scofield says this refers to them being added unto “*local churches.*”

In the same chapter, six verses later we read,

*“...the Lord added unto the church daily such as should be saved.”*

Scofield says the word church here means, the “*true church,*” by which he means the so-called, “*universal church.*”

If any thinking Christian will study the Bible carefully for twenty hours, rather than footnotes or commentaries for twenty minutes he or she will conclude that there is no such thing as a universal church. This dogma has been used by satan as a great tool to usher in our present day of apostasy.

## “The First Deacons”?

At the beginning of Acts chapter six, the Scofield Bible has the heading “*The First Deacons,*” however, when we compare Peter’s qualifications for the seven men chosen in Acts with Paul’s qualifications for deacons in First Timothy, we find that Paul included none of Peter’s qualifications and Peter included none of Paul’s qualifications. The two lists are totally different.

Not only are they different, Peter had only three qualifications for the men in Acts chapter six and Paul had thirteen qualifications for the deacons. Nothing in Paul's list is in Peter's list and nothing of Peter's list is in Paul's list.

I also checked about a dozen of my favourite commentaries and they all agreed with Scofield's nonsense. Maybe those writers were too lazy to compare Scripture with Scripture as was I.

Most of my Christian life I believed the men in Acts six were deacons because Scofield said they were.

Once-again, one of the greatest days of my life was when I decided to put away all of my Bible commentaries and simply compare Scripture with Scripture.

### **Here Are Some Interesting Questions You Might Enjoy Studying The Bible About.**

1. Why, at least seven years after the Day of Pentecost, (and more likely did twelve years after Pentecost) Peter tell Cornelius it was "unlawful" for him to fellowship with Gentiles (Acts 10:28)?

According to Scofield and most Bible commentaries they were all of one accord with the Gentiles in Acts 2:46.

2. Why were the apostles at Jerusalem upset with Peter for fellowshiping with Gentiles seven years (and more likely twelve years) after the Day of Pentecost (Acts 11:1-3)?

I did put a few hundred hours of study into these questions and found the answer. Give it a try and you will have a tremendous blessing.

If you like you can listen to the twenty-five messages I have on the subject at <http://www.sermonaudio.com/search.asp?sourceonly=true&currSection=sermons&keyword=fhbc&keywordDesc=&subsetcat=series&subsetitem=Understanding+NT+Timeline>. However I strongly advise you to check it all with the Scriptures because I might be wrong.



**“INVESTING IN  
ETERNITY BY  
STRENGTHENING  
THE LOCAL CHURCH”**