



For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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Test Questions Are Not Vague

Most everyone reading this has undoubtedly studied a copy of the *Rules of the Road* for the state in which you live so as to receive your license to drive. I am sure you found the rules to be quite understandable. There was no ambiguity. The laws were very clearly defined. It was obvious that the testers desired specific answers to the questions. There was no need for a lengthy explanation of why you answered the way you did. It was black and white. There were no gray areas.

Why is it that people see standards of authority, such as the *Rules of the Road*, as being black or white — well defined truth — and see the Bible as being so ambiguous? People can take a drivers' test and give specific answers to the questions. Yet, give that same person a yes or no question regarding Biblical doctrine and they must answer with some explanation. It is as though the Bible is ambiguous and must be explained. It is as though the Bible cannot be understood. In fact, there are those who think just that. When a Biblical matter is discussed and there is disagreement, rather than seek a Biblical solution, with a wave of the hand it is suggested, "That is just your opinion." In other words, there are different interpretations. God did not mean one thing, He meant one can choose from many. You believe what you want, and I will believe what I want. We are all going to the same place, just by different roads. That is not a Biblical concept. Jesus said there are only two roads, and they do not lead to the same place (Matthew 7:13-14).

Contrary to popular belief, there is only one way to life. Jesus said, "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me*" (John 14:6 — emphasis TLM).

Truth is not ambiguous. It is black and white. Now, it is realized that there are some areas of Biblical teaching that are not understood fully. There are things that God does not intend for man to know and understand (Deuteronomy 29:29). However, that body of knowledge that God wants man to know — how to become His children through Jesus Christ, how to live the Christian life, and how to worship Him — *can* be understood. It is not ambiguous. Jesus said to those who believed on Him, "*If ye abide in my word, (then) are ye truly my disciples; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*" (John 8:31-32 — emphasis TLM). Earlier He had told His disciples, "*Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven*" (Matthew 13:11 — emphasis TLM). Paul, also, wrote concerning the revelation given him, "*whereby, when ye read, ye can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ*" (Ephesians 3:4 — emphasis TLM).

It is a sad day in the church when leaders, preachers, and members alike have to give explanations for their beliefs rather than book, chapter, and verse. When that is done, it is usually because book, chapter, and verse have been rejected. The ambiguous answer is given merely to cover that fact up.

Test questions are not vague. Neither is the Bible. For one to travel that narrow road to life eternal, one must hold steadfastly to it (Acts 2:42).

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