

Welcome to the Bible study. The purpose of this Bible study is to teach the Orthodox doctrines using Holy Scripture. My goal is to tell you all the Bible verses that your Protestant family and friends leave out when they're trying to quote the Bible to you. I have Protestant family and they know much of the Bible. I used to be a Protestant. But we **ignored** a lot of Bible verses that didn't match our Protestant theologies. **Orthodoxy believes all the Bible, not just parts of it.** Let me bring you a quick story as an introduction. The last time that I was in Kingston I took a taxi from the church over to the Colin's house Saturday night. The taxi driver saw that I was a priest and began a religious conversation. It turns out that he was a very zealous Protestant and he wanted to quote Bible verses to me. So when we got to the Colin's house, he stopped the car and started telling me **according to his interpretation** a whole list of Bible verses that he had memorized which he thought I needed to know so that I could be **saved** and go to heaven. He started telling me his **own interpretation** of those Bible verses. For example, he said that I did **not** need to be baptized to go to heaven. He said that I did **not** have to take Holy Communion in order to go to heaven. Basically, he said that I did not have to have the Church in order to go to heaven. He said all I needed to do was pray one little prayer. He even said that I shouldn't say, "Lord have mercy on me a sinner" the way we Orthodox do all the time.

Now, I have to tell you the honest truth, I got upset with him and I said, "Sir, **you are leaving out a lot of Bible verses.**" So we sat for about an hour in the taxi and I told him quite a few Bible verses that he had ignored.

You see there are 10,000 or more different Protestant churches. They all claim to have the same Bible and yet they come up with varying and **different interpretations of what you need to believe** in order to go to heaven. But they make a **big mistake** because the Bible itself says -- and I'll show you this in a minute because it's the first verse that I will show you -- the Bible itself **says that the Bible is not to be interpreted privately.** It's not up to private interpretation. Private interpretation leads to private opinions and that leads to different opinions and that leads to wrong opinions and that leads to wrong churches with a variety of false and wrong teachings. We are forbidden by the Bible to interpret the Bible according to private opinion. So if we can't interpret the Bible with private interpretation, **then whose interpretation** are we supposed to use when we start our Bible study? **The answer is: we are to listen to the men who wrote it.** The **Apostles.** We are to follow the interpretation of the men who wrote the Bible by the power of the Holy Spirit. In other words, the Prophets and the Apostles. So when we talk about the New

Testament we talk about the Apostolic Teaching, which is also called the Apostolic Doctrine.

The 12 Apostles walked with Jesus for 3 years. He taught them His teaching-the doctrine of Christ. Christ gave that teaching to the Apostles. So it is also called the Apostolic Doctrine. The Apostles with the power of the Holy Spirit started the Church. **The Church guards the Apostolic Doctrine** and keeps the Apostolic Teaching unchanged for 2,000 years. For example, the Church has taught us that to be saved you have to be Baptized and take Holy Communion. So, **we interpret the Bible according to the Apostles' Doctrine. That's the main point of today's Bible Study. We study according to the Church's opinion**, not according to Father Andrew's opinion or your opinion or someone else's opinion. The Church Fathers guarded the Apostolic Doctrine and we follow the consensus view of the Church Fathers down through the centuries. Now let me show you Bible verses to back up everything I have just told you.