

THE ANALOGY OF FAITH

This principle is the recognition that there is complete harmony of Scripture on all points. The doctrines of the Bible are deduced from the passages in which they are discussed in clear, plain and intelligible language. God is consistent; therefore His word is consistent.

The significance of this principle of hermeneutics is that no passage of the Bible will contradict the total teaching of the Bible on any subject. All doctrines "fit together" with all other doctrines. No two human authors of Scripture disagree with one another. No two passages disagree or contradict each another.

People who do not respect the Bible as the word of God quickly assume there are errors or contradictions in the Bible. As soon as they see what *appears* to contradict something else, they conclude it is in fact a contradiction.

But if you recognize that God cannot err, and therefore His word cannot err, you take a different approach. You keep studying until you understand how different passages **harmonize** with each other. Consider an example of an apparent contradiction in **four** passages describing the same thing—the inscription over the cross of Jesus.

Matthew 27:37: *THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

Mark 15:26: *THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

Luke 23:38: *THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

John 19:19: *JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

A skeptic immediately says "This is clearly a contradiction. All four gospels disagree on the inscription." But who says all four must have recorded the exact same words or it is an error? None are errors, and none contradict. If you *harmonize* them, you can deduce what the inscription was and that none of the four recorded every word:

THIS IS (Mt/Lk) **JESUS** (Mt/Jn) **THE NAZARENE** (Jn)
THE KING OF THE JEWS (Mt/Mk/Lk/Jn)

If one said "This is Bob of Boise, The King of the Road," it would be a problem. It is actually four independent true reports of the same thing.