

The Word of God

Is the Bible Reliable and Relevant in My Life?

One of the things that separates true Bible Christianity from many of the religions of the world is its claim to a **single** written authority from God. Many religions will rely on several different authorities. The authority of the written word of God is essential to a Christian's growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. The principles by which we are to govern our lives are found in the pages of the Word of God. The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint you with how the Bible relates to your everyday life.

- I The word of God is infallible, without error and absolutely reliable in every detail
 - A The individual words of God were inspired as they were penned by man. God is the author of the Bible, man is simply the "publisher".
II Peter 1:20-21, II Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 68:11
 - B The word of God has been preserved through history, and given to you in your language. God desires to communicate to men in every part of the world through his words. Therefore the same God who inspired his words is actively involved in the process of preserving them for you.
Psalm 12:6-7, 119:160, Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 5:17-18
 - C God has promised to preserve words that are pure. That means the individual words of the Bible are significant. The Bible does not just contain truth, it is truth.
Mark 13:31, John 17:17, Psalm 119:140, Proverbs 30:5
 - D The words of God are not to be changed by man.
Proverbs 30:6, Deuteronomy 4:2, Revelation 22:18-19

THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON:

The word of God is the absolute authority for the entire Universe, and governs everything in it. Therefore, it is the final authority in your life as a believer.

The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.
Psalm 68:11

Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.
Proverbs 30:5

Read
Matthew 17:1-9, and compare it with
II Peter 1:16-21.

Peter was relating his experience when he saw the visible appearance of a glorified Jesus Christ and heard the audible voice of God from heaven. He said we have a “MORE SURE” word than God’s audible voice. It must be understood that all “experiences” are to be judged by an infallible standard. The Bible can be trusted to be more accurate than any book, vision, voice, man, or experience of life

Romans 3:4, John 7:24

II The word of God was active in your salvation.

A The word of God was the agent which brought about your new birth.

1 Peter 1:23, James 1:21

B The process of salvation begins with God sending out his word. When you heard it and exercised your faith in the word, then and only then was God's grace for salvation available to you. Therefore, without God sending his word, man cannot be saved.

Romans 10:17, Ephesians 2:8-9

C The gospel contains three parts: Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again from the dead, and all three are **according to the scriptures**. You must believe what the Bible says about sin, your condition, and God’s plan of salvation in order to be saved.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

*So then faith cometh
by hearing, and
hearing by the word
of God.*

Romans 10:17

III Since the word of God is active in salvation, it is also your guidebook for life. The Bible transcends time and culture, and is relevant to your life even though it was written centuries ago.

A Every major purchase, car, appliance, etc., comes with an owner’s manual which tells you how to operate it. If you don’t go by the book, it won’t work.

B The Bible is your “owner’s manual for life” written by the author and designer of life, God. Your life will not work unless you “go by the book”.

Psalms 119:105, Proverbs 3:5-6

The Word of God

IV The word of God is practical and applies to your life in four basic areas.

II Timothy 3:16-17

A **Doctrine** -

The Bible teaches you what God wants you to know.

B **Reproof** –

The Bible points out to you what is wrong.

C **Correction** –

The Bible establishes what is right.

D **Instruction in righteousness** –

The Bible shows you how to maintain what is right

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

V The word of God has many practical purposes for a Christian.

A The word of God equips you to serve God.

1 Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, as we saw in the previous lesson. He moved in at the moment of salvation, but now your “temple” needs to be renovated and furnished for God’s work in your life.

2 The word of God furnishes you by giving you God’s mind.

I Corinthians 2:16, Proverbs 2:1-9, 24:3-4

a The Bible gives you knowledge: the facts of God’s truth.

b The Bible gives you wisdom: the ability to use the facts properly.

c The Bible gives you understanding: the ability to know and use the truth of God’s word with a proper relationship to God.

3 This is illustrated by three items of furniture in the Tabernacle.

Hebrews 9:1-5, Exodus 35:13-15

a The table of shewbread pictures the word of God.

Matthew 4:4

b The candlestick pictures the light of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:17-18, II Corinthians 4:6, Psalm 119:130

c The altar of incense pictures a relationship with God through prayer.

Psalm 141:1-2, Revelation 5:8, 8:3-4

- B The word of God helps you overcome spiritual opposition

Ephesians 6:10-18, II Corinthians 10:3-5

- C The word of God is spiritual food for your new man in Christ. The Bible is likened to seven different types of food. It provides a complete and balanced spiritual diet.

Job 23:12, Jeremiah 15:16, John 6:31-35

Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts. Jeremiah 15:16

- 1 Milk

1 Peter 2:2

- 2 Apples (fruit)

Proverbs 7:2, 25:11

- 3 Honey (sweets)

Proverbs 16:24, Psalm 119:103

- 4 Corn (vegetables)

Psalm 78:24

- 5 Water

Isaiah 55:10-11, Ephesians 5:26

- 6 Bread

Matthew 4:4

- 7 Meat

I Corinthians 3:1-2, Hebrews 5:12-14

- B The word of God cleanses you to serve God.

John 15:3, Psalm 119:9-11

VI The word of God is spiritually discerned

- A The most “brilliant” intellects of the world struggle with the simple truths of the Bible because, “*The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God.*” The Bible is learned by revelation and not human reason. It is God’s communication to man of spiritual truth in earthly terms. You must learn the Bible by comparing scripture with scripture, and relying on the Holy Spirit to teach you.

I Corinthians 2:9-16

- B The best “commentary” on the Bible is the Bible itself. It is filled with examples of self-definitions through cross references and comparisons within its own pages.

II Corinthians 13:1, Isaiah 28:9-10

This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established. 2 Corinthians 13:1

The Word of God

- C The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth. There are abundant Bible study tools available to aid in teaching, but truth is only revealed by the Holy Spirit. Since he dwells in you as a saved person, you have the ability within you to understand the Bible.

John 14:26, 16:13-15, I John 2:27, Proverbs 8:8-9

- D The best way to learn the Bible is to love it, read it, and apply it. The Bible only works for those who believe it, and who **prove** they believe it by living its truths.

I Thessalonians 2:13, II Timothy 2:15, John 14:15

*If ye love me, keep
my commandments.
John 14:15*

Basic Questions

Where should I start reading?

One of the most important exercises for a believer in Christ is to read the word of God DAILY - not just once, but the rest of your life. It is a good habit to develop right now.

- Determine a time and place for your personal study of the Bible.
- Develop a plan for reading, and stay consistent.
- Start a “journal” of your Bible reading and study. Write down what God has shown you in his word, and make a note of questions you have in your reading. Take these questions to your pastor or others in your church who can help guide you in the faith.
- As a young Christian, it is best to focus first on the books that deal with your new relationship in Christ, mostly in the New Testament. The Gospel of John and the Epistles of John, along with the Epistles of Paul (Romans through Philemon) are a good place to start. Once you have completed the New Testament, it is a good practice to read the Bible through from Genesis to Revelation once per year. Three chapters per day will accomplish this.

I Timothy 4:13, Matthew 6:13

What if I find something I don't understand?

You will find MANY things in the Bible you do not understand at the time. Do not get frustrated. This will continue the rest of your life, because no one has ever mastered the Bible nor ever will. It is far more important that you live what you do know. God will not give you more understanding of the Bible if you are not faithful with what you have now. As you put into practice the things you learn, God will entrust you with more.

John 16:12

Do you have any other questions about this subject?

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:

There are many popular beliefs which are contrary to the truths of the word of God. A discussion of these issues in light of the principles you just learned should give you a proper understanding of this lesson and correct some of these misconceptions:

- Many people believe the Bible is just a religious book written by men. Why is this not true?
- How can the Bible be understood by people other than the “clergy”?
- What are some of the things the Bible can do for you as a Christian?
- Why is it not enough to just bring a Bible to church on Sundays?

Memory Verses:

II Peter 1:21: “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

Psalm 119:9: “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.”

II Timothy 3:16-17: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”