

The Bible

2 Timothy 2:15

Tonight, I want to share three thoughts about the Bible, how we got the Bible, why study the Bible, and how to study the Bible

First, let me ask, is the Bible really the Word of God? I believe the Bible is the only book written by God, and the purpose for God writing the book was to reveal himself to mankind, it is the only real revelation of God we have.

I believe the Bible is the only real authority and moral standard for man.

There are several facts we can and should know about the Bible.

I feel the purpose for this class is to give you a working knowledge of the Bible and to be able to share it with others. (Not on the level of debating with someone, you are wasting your time.) The Bible says the fool has said in his heart there is no God.

I. The Bible and How we Got it

1. The names and titles of the Bible
 - a. The Bible comes from the Greek words “Bibrios” and Biblion” which means book; Matthew 1:1; Luke 4:17
 - b. The Old and New Testaments; Luke 22:20; The word testament means “Covenant”. A term by which God was pleased to designate the relation that existed between Himself and His people. 1 Corinthians 11:25; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Hebrews 9:15
 - c. The Scriptures; Luke 4:21; 2 Timothy 3:15; 2 Peter 3:16. The term means that the scriptures are Holy Writings. By the early Christian the most common designation for the whole Bible was the scriptures.
 - d. The Word of God; of all the names given to the Bible “The Word of God” is the most significant and complete. Romans 10:17; Hebrews 4:12
2. Of the terms and definitions used in describing How We Got the Bible. We want to look at three, they are Inspiration, Revelation, and Illumination
 - a. Inspiration; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21
 - 1) The word inspired means literally God breathed.
 - 2) Use notes here from what we believe and why.
 - b. Revelation; is that act of God by which He directly communicates truth not known before to the human mind.
 - 1) Inspiration is man putting what God has revealed to Him.
 - c. Illumination is the Word of God opening and becoming real to us.

1) Like turning on a light in a dark room.

II. Why Study the Bible?

1. The Bible is the Word of God and the Word of God is truth; John 17:17. Every man has a right to and should study the Bible
 - a. God has not automatically placed knowledge in us. (not like receiving heart, brain, etc.)
 - b. No easy steps to knowledge, no pills, only by hard work.
2. The Bible teaches every man is to study. (Most of us would rather do anything than study) Deuteronomy 6:7-9
 - a. Thyself; Approved unto God
 - 1) Not another religion
3. One of the most rewarding things a man can do is to study the Bible
 - a. Psalm 119:105; thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
 - b. Psalm 119:9-11; 1:1-3
4. There is a proper way to study the Bible. "Rightly dividing the Word of truth"

III. How to Study the Bible

1. Practical and profitable Bible study involves four steps. I want you to memorize them in order and write down everything you discover in each step.
 - a. In the next studies we will develop each step-in detail.
2. Observation. "What do you see?"
 - b. Observe the whole. Read the entire book at one sitting. Find to whom it was addressed. For what purpose it was written.
 - c. Read it again looking for parts, verbs, pronouns.
3. Interpretation. "What does it mean?"
 - d. Ask questions about what you have observed, Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How.
4. Correlation. "Where does it fit into Biblical truth?"
 - e. Doctrinal
 - f. Always let the scriptures interpret the scriptures. (God's Word will never contradict itself.)
5. Application. "How does it affect my Life?"
 - g. Ask the Lord how you ought to live in the light of what you have just read.
 - h. Look for these things.
 - 1) A truth to rest in
 - 2) A promise to claim
 - 3) An example to follow
 - 4) An error to avoid
 - 5) A challenge to heed

- 6) An attitude to change
 - 7) An action to take
 - 8) A sin to confess
6. Any Questions?