

Lesson 1 – What Is the Bible?

Key Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”

Overview

God has revealed Himself to us in the Bible. Therefore, that is the one book every Christian should know and believe. But what do we believe about the Bible? Thankfully, the Bible tells us what we are to believe about the Bible. It is a book that reveals to us what God thinks about His Word. In this lesson, we will discover four basic truths about the Bible: its authority, clarity, necessity, and sufficiency.

The Bible’s Authority

“Because the Bible is the Word of God, it possesses a trustworthiness, an authority, and an efficacy¹ that no other source possess.”

—Matt Waymeyer, professor of New Testament and Bible Exposition, *The Expositor’s Seminary*

1. Isaiah 45:18. What does this verse say about God? _____
2. 2 Timothy 3:16. What does this verse say about God’s Word? _____

2 Ways the Bible Shows Its Authority

A) God Commands

1. Joshua 24:2. What phrase is given to show God’s command? _____
2. Psalm 119:151. What do we know about God’s commandments? _____
3. 1 Corinthians 14:37. With what does Paul equate his writings in his letters? _____

4. 1 Thessalonians 4:8. If anyone rejects Paul’s commands, who are they ultimately rejecting? _____

¹ efficacy = the ability to produce a desired or intended result.

B) God Demands

1. 1 Peter 1:14. What does the Bible demand in this verse? _____
2. James 4:7. What does the Bible demand in this verse? _____
3. Matthew 3:2. What does the Bible demand in this verse? _____
4. Matthew 22:37. What does the Bible demand in this verse? _____

“To believe that the Bible affirms something false would be to disbelieve God himself. To disbelieve God himself is to place yourself as a higher authority with a deeper, more developed understanding on a topic or topics than God himself.”

—Wayne Grudem, *Christians Beliefs*, pg. 15

The Bible’s Clarity (Perspicuity)

1. Psalm 19:7. Who does the Bible make wise? _____
2. Psalm 119:130. What does the Bible do for simple minded people? _____
3. 2 Peter 3:15–16. What does Peter admit about Paul’s letters? _____
4. Hebrews 5:11. Who is responsible for not understanding the Bible? _____
5. 1 Corinthians 2:12–14. Who do we need in order to understand and believe the Scriptures? _____

“When individuals disagree on the proper interpretation of a passage of Scripture, the problem does not lie with the Scriptures, for God guided its composition so that it could be understood. Rather, the problem lies with us.”

—Wayne Grudem, *Christians Beliefs*, pg. 17

The Bible’s Necessity

1. Romans 10:17. What do people need to hear in order to be saved? _____
2. 2 Timothy 3:15. What does Paul tell Timothy the Scriptures do for people? _____
3. Matthew 4:4. How do believers survive spiritually? _____
4. Deuteronomy 29:29. What do the Scriptures reveal to us? _____

The Bible's Sufficiency

1. 1 Thessalonians 2:13. What promise does Paul give concerning the Word of God in the Thessalonians' lives? _____
2. 2 Timothy 3:16–17. What does God's Word do for believers? _____
3. Psalm 19:7–14. List the seven sanctifying works God's Word does for believers.
 - a. Scripture is able to _____ you. (7a)
 - b. Scripture is able to _____ you. (7b)
 - c. Scripture is able to _____ you. (8a)
 - d. Scripture is able to _____ you. (8b)
 - e. Scripture is able to _____ you. (9a)
 - f. Scripture is able to _____ you. (9b–10)
 - g. Scripture is able to _____ you. (11)

“The Scripture is the royal law which commands not only the actions, but affections; it binds the heart to good behavior. Where is there such holiness to be found, as is digged out of this sacred mine? Who could be the author of such a book but God himself?”

—Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, pg. 28

Application

1. Why is it important that the Bible be the basis for our beliefs?
2. How can you grow in your confidence in God's Word?
3. How can you grow in your knowledge and application of God's Word?
4. What are ways the modern church denies the sufficiency of Scripture? Why is it important for you to be aware of this?