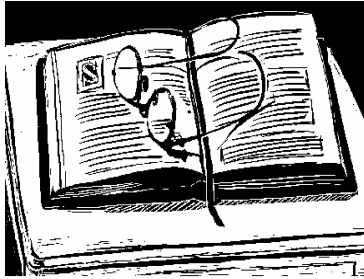


L*esson*
1

The Word of God

What is the Role of the Bible in My Life?



What makes Christianity unique from other religions in the world is the claim to an absolute, written authority from God, the Bible. Having the Word of God is essential to a Christian's growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. The principles by which the Christian is to govern his life in every detail are found in the pages of the Bible.

LESSON 1

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint you with the basic truths of the Bible and its origin. Then we will show you how to understand it and how it relates to your every day life.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

It is generally accepted that there are two sources of human knowledge: reason and experience. Both are essential to the understanding of our world. Yet, reason and experience do not answer the most profound and important questions of life. Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? There is another source of knowledge that carries us beyond the limitations of human reason and experience.

That source of knowledge is called “revelation.” This revelation is found primarily in the Bible. Throughout the Bible we learn of God’s revelation of Himself and His commands that enable us to know God and what He expects of our life.

In the Bible we learn what God has revealed. The Bible is God’s primary source of revelation to us.

In this lesson we will look at four important concepts.

1. Revelation: The things God has revealed for us to know.
2. Inspiration: The method God used to protect the recording of this revelation.
3. Interpretation: Principles used to interpret the written revelation.
4. Application: Learning to put God’s revelation into practice in our life.

REVELATION

Revelation refers to those things God has made known to man. Revelation has come in three basic means.

Revelation Through Nature

1. According to Romans 1:18-20, where has God revealed Himself?
 - a. Verse 19: _____
 - b. Verse 20: _____

2. What does Psalm 19:1-3 say about God?

Revelation Through Christ

1. What does Hebrews 1:1-3 teach about Jesus Christ?

Lesson 1

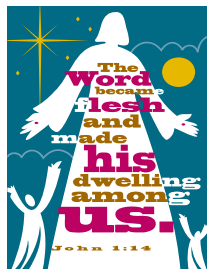
2. John 1:1-14 identifies Jesus as the Word of God. What do the following verses teach about Christ?

Verse 1: _____

Verse 2: _____

Verse 14: _____

3. According to John 14:7-9, what was one of the main reasons Christ came to earth?



Revelation Through the Bible

Jesus is the living Word of God; the Bible is the written Word of God.

II Peter 1:16-21

1. Verses 16 and 17 speak of revelation by whom?

2. Verses 19-21 speak of written revelation.
 - a. According to verse 19, what should you do with this revelation?

 - b. According to verse 21, where did the Bible (the written revelation) originate?

The Bible is important because it is God's primary source of revelation. It is the book where God revealed His truths for us to know.

HOW DO WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS GOD’S WORD?

What does II Timothy 3:16 say about the Bible?

Inspiration

Inspiration is the process God used to give us the written Word of God. The word inspired comes from a Greek word meaning “God-breathed.” Inspiration means that God superintended the writing of Scripture so that what was written was exactly what God wanted written.

1. According to II Peter 1:21, how was the Bible given?

2. From II Timothy 3:16, how much of the Bible is inspired?

Inspiration is proof the Bible is from God. God protected the recording of His Word. We then know that the Bible is the Word of God because of inspiration.

HOW ARE WE TO STUDY THE BIBLE?

God has given us the Bible for our understanding and enlightenment. He intended for us to read it, to understand it, and to obey it. In order for us to be able to do these things, there are guidelines we should follow.

Interpretation

II Timothy 2:15 says “...rightly dividing the word of truth.” Read the following guidelines carefully and use them as you attempt to understand your Bible.

Interpretation Guidelines

1. **Take the Bible for what it says.** This is known as literal interpretation. God did not write the Bible to conceal deeper spiritual truths. He wrote so you could see the simple truths for yourself. Someone said it this way:

*“If the literal sense makes sense,
seek no other sense.”*

2. **Never take a verse out of context.** Always keep a verse within the setting in which it was written.
3. **Ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding of the Scriptures.**

Look up I Corinthians 2:6-16. What do you have that will enable you to understand spiritual truths?

HOW SHOULD WE USE THE BIBLE?

God will guide us as we seek to understand what He has revealed.

Application

Another important aspect in studying the Bible is application. Application is putting the Bible into practice in our life. This is called obedience!

Read Ephesians 5:15-21 and answer the following:

- a. Are there any commands I should obey?

- b. Is there any sin I should avoid?

- c. Are there any promises I can claim?

- d. Are there any principles I should follow?

CONCLUSION

We can trust the Bible, God's revelation to us. We must learn to obey it. Acceptance of the Bible as from God is critical for our understanding of our relationship to God. We need to accept the Bible as from God and let it be the authority for our life.

Write down any questions you may have regarding this lesson.

Memory Verse ***II Timothy 3:16***



