

# Christian Study

Lesson 232

## Be Light

*Focusing on Church beyond Sunday*

### How Can I Know and Understand What the Bible Means?

#### Understanding the Basic Gospel

##### *The Authority of Scripture*

In this lesson we are going to make a slight change in our format. This time we are going to identify the authority of scripture by pointing to facts together with questions to follow some of them. Our goal in this format is for all to participate either in your small groups or individually

No book in history can equal the impact of the Bible upon individuals and nations. The Bible has been printed, read, translated and attacked more than any other writing. It has stood through the centuries with out been shaken. On the contrary every spade turned by archeologists provides further confirmation of the historical occurrence and integrity of the Bible Therefore, the primary reason for placing ourselves under scriptural authority is because of our faith in Jesus Christ and His testimony concerning the Word of God.

Earlier we have established the fact that Jesus Christ is God. Colossians 2:9 "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." If Jesus Christ is not God, then it makes little difference what the Bible says because man is still in his sin. However, if He is God, then our attitude towards the Bible must be determined by what He said about it, not what the world says

The answer to the question "What do you think about the Bible?" rests extremely on the answer to the question that Jesus asked His disciples. **Matthew 16:5** "He said to them, "But who do you say I am"?"

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### Key verse: 1 John 1:1-3

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of Life, **2** (for the Life was revealed, and we have seen *it* and bear witness, and show to you the everlasting Life, who was with the Father and was revealed to us), **3** that which we have seen and heard we declare unto you, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ

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- 1 What four things qualified the apostles to testify about the Word of life?
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
  - d)
- 2 Would John's statement lead you to believe that he is recording historical facts?
- 3 To whom does the "Word of life" refer?
- 4 What relationship do you see between this verse and John 1:1?

### The Authority of the Old Testament

#### Christ's claims about the Old Testament.

**John 5:39-40** "You diligently study the Scriptures, because you think that in them you will find eternal life. And these very Scriptures speak about me! **40** Yet you are not willing to come to me in order to have life."

- 1 Why did the Jews diligently study the scriptures?
- 2 What did Jesus say these scriptures testify about?
- 3 What scripture is He talking about?
- 4 Does Jesus indicate in this passage that He believes the Old Testament is true?

"If you had really believed Moses, you would have believed me, because he wrote about me. **47** But since you do not believe what he wrote, how can you believe what I say?" **John 5:46-47**

- 1 Of whom did Jesus say Moses wrote in the above verse?
- 2 How did Jesus equate believing in Moses' writing and believing His own words?
- 3 According to this passage, what was Jesus' attitude toward the Old Testament?
- 4 What should our attitude be?
- 5 If someone rejects the validity of the Old Testament, what is he or she in effect saying about Jesus?

### *Christ's witness to Old Testament events*

**He validated the Old Testament account of Noah and the flood.**

**Matthew 24:37-39** "And as *were* the days of Noah, so shall be the coming of the Son of man. **38** For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, **39** and they knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall be the coming of the Son of man." The full account is found in the book of Genesis chapters 6, 7, and 8.

- 1 How many people were destroyed by the flood?
- 2 Did Jesus state this as an actual account or a mythical story?
- 3 If this account of the Old Testament had been wrong, do you think Jesus (who is God) would have corrected it?
- 4 To what future event does He compare the days of Noah?
- 5 Would it make sense to compare such an important event as the second coming of Christ to a mythical story?
- 6 If one story were false, what would you have to conclude about the other?

**Christ also validated the Old Testament account of Jonah and the big fish**

**Matthew 12:38-41** "Then certain of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, Teacher, we would see a sign from thee. **39** But he answered and said unto them, An evil

and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given it but the sign of Jonah the prophet: **40** for as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth **41** The men of Nineveh shall stand up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, a greater than Jonah is here." Full account of this story is found in the book of Jonah chapters one to four.

- 1 Jesus claim to be greater than whom?
- 2 Would it have any meaning to claim to be greater than someone who did not exist?
- 3 Does Jesus indicate by His statement that He believed Jonah was a historical person and this was a historical event?
- 4 What then can you conclude about the account of Jonah and the big fish?

**If Jesus is God and He said there was a flood, then there was a flood**

If He said Jonah was swallowed by a big fish, then he was. If Jesus is not God then we are still in our sins, and whether or not there was a flood or a big fish is completely irrelevant to our lives.

There are at least sixty-six references to the Old Testament in Christ's dialogues with the disciples and more than ninety references to it in His speaking with other people. There was never any question in the mind of Christ or the writers of the New Testament about the facts and accuracy of the Scriptures, nor did their enemies even challenge it. The validity and significance of these Old Testament events rests in a straightforward manner upon the validity of the testimony of Jesus and the apostles.

### *The Authority of the New Testament*

"And you, too, will speak about me, because you have been with me from the very beginning." **John 15:27**

- 1 What did Jesus say the disciples will do?
- 2 What gives the disciples the authority to be a witness to Christ and wrote the New Testament, according to this passage. *(Read the whole chapter)*

It is important to realize that the writers of the New Testament were men who had been with the Lord Jesus "beginning from the baptism of John, unto the day that he was received up from us, of these must one become a witness with us of his resurrection." **Acts 1:22**. This includes the apostle Paul, who witnessed the resurrected Christ in a unique way. This account can be read in details in the ninth chapter of the book of Acts.

**John 14:26** "But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatever I have said to you."

1 What did Jesus say that the Holy Spirit would do for the apostles?

The answer is the same that He will do for you and me today when we let Him.

2 How much will He teach them?

3 How much of what Christ said while staying with them would the Holy Spirit bring back to their memory?

"The Jewish authorities came back at him with a question, "What miracle can you perform to show us that you have the right to do this?" **19** Jesus answered "Tear down this Temple, and in three days I will build it again." **20** "Are you going to build it again in three days?" they asked him. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple!" **21** But the temple Jesus was speaking about was his body. **22** So when he was raised from death, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and what Jesus had said." **John 2:18-22**

1 This passage provides an example of Christ's promise of remembrance. What did the disciples remember? (**Verse 22**)

2 What did they believe?

3 When did they remember and believe these things?

Our mission is to help people find strength and security on the foundation that can never be shaken, cracked or shattered. This foundation is the remarkable truth of God's unconditional love and His indisputable grace experienced in a relationship with Jesus Christ. The critics of Christianity have launched a full attack to discredit the person and works of Jesus Christ and the reliability of His word. We cannot be silent anymore. Let us as children of light, stand firm in the faith, because He who has taken us this far will

never forsake us. You are called Christians, be careful of that name. Let not our Lord Jesus Christ be blasphemed on your account

*Believe this!* "Jesus did not come to make bad people good, He came to make dead people live."

### Keep It Simple

**Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.**

If you have any questions, comments or you know anybody else who will benefit from this study please feel free to give us their email address and they will be added to our mailing list to receive weekly lessons. The email address is [santigiemando1@yahoo.com](mailto:santigiemando1@yahoo.com),

**A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle (Ephesians 5:8)**

**Let's go light another candle**