

Christian Study

Lesson 233

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 (Cont'd)

"I have much more to tell you, but now it would be too much for you to bear. **13** When, however, the Spirit comes, who reveals the truth about God; he will lead you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own authority, but he will speak of what he hears and will tell you of things to come. **14** He will give me glory, because he will take what I say and tell it to you." **John 15:12-14**

- 1 What did Christ say the Holy Spirit would do for the apostles (V 13)?
- 2 Whom does the Holy Spirit bring glory to?
- 3 What did Christ say that the Holy Spirit would reveal to the apostles?
- 4 In light of the passage, how did God ensure that John and the other writers would accurately record His revelation? (V 13)
- 5 Why then can we accept the authority of the New Testament with complete confidence? (V 14)

The apostle Peter summed it up when He wrote:

1 Peter 1:20-21 "He had been chosen by God before the creation of the world and was revealed in these last days for your sake. **21** Through him you believe in God, who raised Him from death and gave him glory; and so your faith and hope are fixed on God."

The last twenty-seven books of the Bible called the New Testament contains the record of the Person of Jesus Christ and of the events leading up to and following His death and resurrection. The Apostles who penned these accounts did not record their own ideas and impressions, but what they actually saw and heard as they walked and talked with Jesus and what He supernaturally inspired.

1 According to **John 14:6**, what is truth?

This is the same question Pilate asked Jesus during His trial but did not wait for an answer. Truth in the above passage is not a thing, it's a Person. "I am" is the truth

Truth is timeless. Truth was true then and it's true now and will be true forever because Truth is not an opinion, not a doctrine without proof, or a religious formula. Truth is a Person Truth is not just a theology, the study of God, but a theocracy, being ruled by God. That means that for you and me, there is only one decision to make and that is to abide by it. Jesus Christ is the final explanation of the truth. He is all we need to know about God, and He is all we need to know about man.

2 What did Jesus say is truth in (**John 17:17**)?

3 Therefore where will the Holy Spirit lead the believer for truth?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living, 17 so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed."

1 How much Scripture is given for inspiration?

2 How is it useful to us?

3 What will be the personal results in our lives?

4 Since the Holy Spirit is our teacher (**John 14:26**), can every child read and understand the Bible?

The Bible answers life's most important questions. Who God is and what is He like? What does He expects from us? Who are we and why are we here? In addition to answering these central questions, the Bible teaches us how to live a full and meaningful life. It instructs us on how to enjoy our daily life and how to live above the circumstances rather than be buried underneath them. The Word of God gives us practical counsel on how to get along with our families, our friends and even our enemies.

The Bible is an autobiography of God, a study in human behavior, a historical account, a counselor's manual, and a textbook on life, a telescope into the future, a storehouse of riches and a love letter. It is a library of answers given to us out of the heart of a loving God; it contains all the riches and treasures He has given to us as His children... The Word of God can fulfill every human need, and that is why it is important for us to learn how to use this very unique book.

Have you ever personally accepted by faith the entire Bible as the Word of God? Have you tried the Christian life based on someone's ideas and still not sure if you are on the right path? The following is a suggested prayer. If you have PLEASE pass this prayer on to someone you know can pray it and start growing in God's grace.

"Father, thank you for leaving your Holy Word with us Thank you for giving us your Spirit so we can understand the very mind of God as revealed in Your Word. Beginning today, I accept by faith the authority of the word of God over my life, and I trust without any doubt as Your personal Word to me"

The apostle Paul said in **Colossians 2:6-8** "Since you have accepted Christ Jesus as Lord, live in union with him. **7** Keep your roots deep in him, build your lives on him, and become stronger in your faith, as you were taught. And be filled with thanksgiving. **8** See to it, then, that no one enslaves you by means of the worthless deceit of human wisdom, which comes from the teachings handed down by human beings and from the ruling spirits of the universe, and not from Christ."

Renew your mind through God's Word

More times than not, many of us Christians have this conviction that because we have been Christians for so long, we know everything about God and there is no need to go back to scripture for growth. We think we have enough to carry us through our lives. All of us know that the devil seeks who he will devour and he is also, because he is called an angel of light that's why the apostle Paul begged us by the mercies of God not to fall for his lies and deception, but to be available for Jesus Christ to live His life in and through us.

Romans 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing to God, *which is* your reasonable service. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what *is* that good and pleasing and perfect will of God"

You will see in the above passage that Paul did not address our feelings, he talks about our minds, because our feelings is what our mind feeds it, so if the mind overflows with truth, we will be able to feel the truth. On the other hand, if our mind is filled with error our feeling will follow what the minds put into it. This is not to say we should not feel anything, on the contrary, we should feel everything but we must make sure that it is our renewed mind through the Holy Spirit that is making the decisions in our daily lives right here on earth, based on the truth that is been taught.

Even when you are on the right track, you can get run over if you are standing in one place

As brand new Christians or having been a Christians for many years, it is very important to be fed by the Word of God. It is similar to a little child and even for grown ups, that we should be constantly fed with healthy food for healthy growth. We all know that you can also feed ourselves with unhealthy foods and the long run effect is unhealthy bodies. The spiritual life needs to be constantly growing in order to be able to stand the times of the real life in the real world.

We have to encourage other believers and be encouraged by other believers, and that is why the writer of Hebrews reminds us not to forget to come together **Hebrews 10:25** "We should not stop gathering together with other believers, as some of you are doing. Instead, we must continue to encourage each other even more as we see the day of the Lord coming." This statement by no means is restricted to believers meeting in Church only on Sunday's or any given day for some kind of a prayer meeting as some of us have been brain-washed for many years. With the technological age at its peak, believers can gather together on the phone, in chat rooms, through text messaging, emails etc: The medium of our meeting is not the determined factor; it is the object of our meeting (Jesus Christ) is what is of importance. It is for us to come together in the name of the Lord and most of all is for Him to get the glory and not ourselves.

God's faithfulness **will** strengthen us as we continue in the renewing of our minds, and I cannot emphasize this truth enough. Renewing of our minds in our daily walk with Christ is the only action for growing in the unconditional love of God, the only way we can be heavenly righteous and earthly helpful and loving to our family, friends and as mentioned even our enemies. No matter what the circumstances, expected or unexpected ones, God in His mercy for His beloved children will always be there to work it for His and our benefit. Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose."

Paul in reaffirming the above statement to the church in Thessalonica did not hesitate to say to them that, "Whatever happens, give thanks, because it is God's will in Christ Jesus that you do this." **1 Thessalonians 5:18**. On our own giving thanks to God on a regular basis when things are going our way is difficult enough, but because it is His will we will be able to do it if we are in Christ Jesus. We do not give thanks for the bad things that happen to us, we should give thanks during those times because eventually God will bring us out of them a better person. TRUST HIM, HE HAS PROMISED HE WILL NEVER LIVE US NOR FORSAKE US.

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.

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

Let's go light another candle