

Christian Study

Lesson 248

Be Light

Focusing on Church beyond Sunday

How Can I Know and Understand What the Bible Means?

Understanding the Basic Gospel

A Closer Look at the Word Of God

In a time when many Christians are looking for answers to life's questions, A CLOSER LOOK AT THE WORD OF GOD brings us back to a fresh understanding to the truth and authority of Scriptures in our day-to-day experience As a person's physical growth is based on proper diet and exercise, so is the Christian's spiritual growth dependent on regular feeding upon the Word of God and application of it's principles. . **1 Timothy 4:8** "For bodily exercise is profitable to little: but godliness is profitable to all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come." With more false teaching, shifting opinions and general confusion in the world than ever before, Christians need a solid foundation upon which to base their beliefs and build their lives. The Word of God declares that Jesus is the foundation of truth. Therefore, the emphasis of this study series is to help Christians discover for themselves what the Bible actually says about Christ

These Christian study guides are uniquely prepared for this purpose. They are useful for the newborn intermediate or mature Christian in that they begin with the fundamental and central question of who is Jesus Christ and then build on that foundation in a logical and progressive manner. The study is also extremely flexible in that it can be used for individual or group study.

The Book of Acts tells us that the first Christians were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **Acts 2:42**. The need for a proper balance on the Christian life is as real today as it was in the first century.

1 Corinthians 3:11

"For no other foundation can anyone lay, other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Helpful suggestions as you begin

- 1 Use a Bible that you are comfortable with. One that you can understand
- 2 Before beginning your study, always pray and ask God to quiet your heart and open your mind to understand the Scriptures
- 3 Approach the Word of God with a learner's heart and a teachable spirit.
- 4 Have a dictionary handy for new word meaning

What Christ Claimed about His Word

No Book in history can equal the effect of the Bible upon individuals and nations. The Bible has been printed, read, translated, and attacked more than any other writing. The Bible was written over a long period of time (16 to 17 centuries) by forty plus different authors from all walks of life, including those of political leadership, fishermen, herdsmen, generals, kings, doctors and tax collectors. This Book was written on three continents, in three languages, during times of war and peace. The writers wrote out of modes of joy and despair. Yet, they deal harmoniously with scores of controversial subjects, always resulting in one unfolding story---God's redemption of man. These facts should be enough to persuade any thinking man who honestly seeks truth, to carefully examine this unique, life changing book.

Our primary and supreme reason for placing ourselves under spiritual authority and the reason for accepting the Bible as inspired by God and its authority in our lives is simple faith in and commitment to Jesus Christ

Reminder!!

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for
the evidence of things not seen.

In the first series "A Closer Look at Jesus Christ," it was established that Jesus Christ is God, who became flesh and walked among men. He taught by word and deed. He died to pay the penalty for our sins and then rose from the dead to give eternal life to all who receive Him. If Jesus Christ is God and God He surely is, we must accept all that He said. If He is not God, we are not compelled to acknowledge anything He said. It is a necessarily package deal. Our attitude towards the scripture must be developed by understanding first, who Jesus is and secondly, what He said about the Word of God.

A Moment of Reflection

Before beginning your study, pray for God to show you the importance of His word in your life

1 The Testimony of Christ (God) Concerning the Word of God

To Satan

Matthew 4:1-11 "Then Jesus was led up into the wilderness by the Spirit, to be tempted by the devil. **2** And having fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. **3** And approaching Him, the tempter said, "If you are the Son of God, speak so that these stones may become bread." **4** But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'" **5** Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels orders concerning you,' and, 'In their hands they will lift you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" **7** Jesus said to him, "Again, it is written, 'you shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" **8** Again, the devil took Him up on a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory. **9** And he said to Him, "All these things will I give you, if you will fall down and worship me." **10** Then Jesus said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him alone you shall serve.'" **11** Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him." In verses **4, 7 and 10**, Jesus used the scripture to answer Satan They are found in **Deuteronomy 8:3, 6:16, 6:13 and 10:20** These same words are available to us today and that is what we should use to counteract the devil and his temptations

To the Masses

John 5:39-40 "you 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." In the above passage, Jesus is making a claim here that, the Word of God bears witness of Him, but the Pharisees were refusing to come to him for life. God gave Moses the words he spoke, so if they believe Moses they should believe Him. He did not plan to correct or change the writing of the Law or the prophets. The Law and the Prophets would pass away before all would be accomplished. He fulfilled all the law, never sinned and laid His life down for the whole of the human race, past present and future. **John 15:13** "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Also **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in His shall have everlasting life."

To the Religious Leaders

Luke 16:29-31 "Abraham said, 'Your brothers have Moses and the prophets to warn them; your brothers should listen to what they say.' **30** The rich man answered, 'That is not enough, father Abraham! But if someone were to rise from death and go to them, then they would turn from their sins.' **31** But Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone were to rise from death.'"

According to Luke someone raised from the dead would not be able to persuade any man who rejects the testimony of the scripture to believe

Jesus Christ uses scripture to answer the complaints of the religious leaders. **Matthew 21:42** "Jesus asked them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. The Lord is responsible for this, and it is amazing for us to see'? Jesus in this passage is also speaking to the leaders from scripture as we will find this saying in the book of **Psalms 118::22** At another instance in the gospels, Jesus is heard using the Word of God when the Pharisees wanted to find something wrong with what His disciples were doing on the day of worship (Sabbath) **Luke 6:2-4** "But some of the Pharisees said to them, Why do you do that which is not lawful to do on the Sabbaths? **3** And answering, Jesus said to them, Have you never read this, what David did when he hungered, and those being with him? **4** How he went into the house of God, and he took the Loaves of Presentation, and ate, and even gave to those with him, which it is not lawful to eat, except only the priests? Jesus here quotes directly from

1 Samuel 21:6 This tells us that we should go to the scriptures for answers to life's questions, in our joy, our pain and when they ask us why we believe what we believe.

Word of God Vs Tradition

Key verse:

Mark 7:9 and 13 "Then he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your own tradition! **13** You are destroying the word of God through your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many other things like that."

To His Disciples

Jesus was speaking to His disciples then and He is speaking these same words to us today who are His disciples and all who wants life eternal in His presence, when He said in **Matthew 24:35** Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

In explaining the things concerning Himself, following His resurrection, Jesus referred to what was written by Moses and what He had told them while He was with them. **Luke 24:44** "And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me."

Then Jesus said to them, "How foolish you are, how slow you are to believe everything the prophets said! **26** Was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and then to enter his glory?" **27** And Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures, beginning with the books of Moses and the writings of all the prophets. **28** As they came near the village to which they were going Jesus acted as if he were going

farther 29 but they held him back, saying, "Stay with us; the day is almost over and it is getting dark." So he went in to stay with them. 30 He sat down to eat with them, took the bread, and said the blessing; then he broke the bread and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Wasn't it like a fire burning in us when he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" **Luke 24:25-32**

Focusing on Application

Through out His earthly ministry, Jesus validated the Word of God as the absolute standard of truth. The gospels record Jesus making almost 160 quotations from the Old Testament. Three fourths of the books in the Hebrew scriptures are cited in these references Whether He was teaching His disciples, exhorting people to action, answering His critics or rejecting the temptations of Satan, Jesus used the scriptures as His principal means. In the time when the Scribes and the Pharisees placed more emphasis on the tradition passed down from their leading Rabbis than on the Word of God' Jesus ' reliance on the scriptures alone both baffled His enemies and impressed His believers. His continued testimony was, **John 17:17** "Dedicate them to yourself by means of the truth; your word is truth."

Jesus not only accepted without question the validity of the Old Testament, He continually referred to His own life as the fulfillment of the scriptures. Appearing in His hometown of Nazareth after beginning His public ministry, Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah and said; "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." **Luke 4:21**. The magnitude of this claim was not lost on the listeners, because "all in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard theses things" **Luke 4:28**. In front of His most bitter enemies, He maintained, "You search the scripture because you think that in them you have eternal life, and it is these that bear witness of me." **John 5:39** The witness of scriptures (the written word) and Jesus (the living word) were so intertwined that, as He said, "If you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote of Me." **John 5:46**.

When the Word of God is taught clearly, God is understood clearly

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-17

It is no secret, what God can do. What He's done for others, He'll do for you.

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 santigiemandol@yahoo.com,

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

Let's go light another candle!