



Week 8: Why Study the Bible

MV: *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Tim 3:16-17)*

One of the things disciples do is teaching people to obey everything Jesus commanded (Matt 28:20)

We, as disciples, need to know Jesus' teaching and commands

For a Christian, reading the Bible should be natural

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation," (1 Peter 2:2) (like milk..."Milk makes a body good.")

We should depend on the Word for our spiritual survival and growth.

The Bible IS "The Word of God"

If this is really so, it ought to shape every aspect of our existence; guide decisions in our lives

ASK: Why do you study the Bible?

- 1) guilt
- 2) status; but God cares more about your character than your productivity
- 3) teaching material (if that's all you use it for you're missing the point)

ASK: Why did God give us the Bible?

- 1) **To teach us about Himself!** God is the subject of the scriptures. The Bible is "God-centered. Genesis begins with God and Revelation ends with God. The Bible shows us everything revolves around God. Alpha, Omega, 1st, Last, King of Kings, Lord of Lords. His holy and that shows the disparity between God and people

From the Bible we learn about God's character—power, justice, mercy, wrath, love, kindness, anger, faithfulness, jealousy, holiness, compassion. The Bible leaves nothing out

- 2) **To teach us about ourselves and the world we live in.** It gives us the answer to life's most important questions. The God who wrote the Bible is the God who designed the World. Since it's His world, it should be viewed from His perspective and lived according to His principles. When we read, we should be seeking to understand God, the world, and d ourselves.

3) To enable us to live Godly lives;

"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." (2 Peter 1:3)

Through knowledge of God, we gain everything we need for living Godly lives. WE study the Bible because we want to be Godly

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God breathed out the World. He's the source of the worlds. He gave it to us so that we would be complete, equipped and ready to do anything God asks

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Heb 4:12)

Through the World, God changes and redefines who we are

- 4) **to facilitate a relationship with God.** Every relationship requires communication. He exhibits relationship in the Trinity. Reading the Bible is listening to the voice of God. True Bible study must always have intimacy with God as the primary goal.
- 5) **To exalt Jesus.** All events in Biblical history point to God's Son. The law was given to show our sinfulness and need for Jesus. All of it was written to exalt Jesus to the glory of god.
- 6) **To prepare us for our God-given mission.**

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." (Gen 2:15)

From the moment of Adam's creation, we had a mission. On this earth, we were to have dominion like God. It goes further...

"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Gen 12:3)

Abraham was **to be** a blessing.

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." (2 Cor 5:20)

We are Christ's ambassadors. The Bible is our marching orders.

When we read the Bible, we approach the mind of God. We don't have all the answers, that's why we read the Bible.

Right motivation makes all the difference.

"Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up." (1 Cor 8:1)

Reading God's World should help you become more like God. Let God tell you what he wants you to think and do.