

Week 3 | Bible

What's the point of the Bible?

What we need to understand as Christ followers is that Scripture is our final _____. It's the primary means in which God grows us in c_____ and in d_____. Conduct is how we _____. Doctrine is what we _____.

And how we live flows out of what we believe. That was the primary theme of 1 Timothy, the letter Paul wrote to the young man he discipled, Timothy. He wrote in 1 Timothy 4:16a... *"Watch your life and doctrine closely."*

Luke 16 gives us a great example from Jesus of the authority of Scripture. Jesus tells a story of a man who didn't believe on earth and the result was suffering torment in hell.

The man has a conversation with Abraham across a chasm that apparently separated those who died believing and those who died not believing (prior to Jesus opening heaven at His resurrection). The man begged to be able to go back and warn his unbelieving brothers.

But it says in Luke 16:29-31... *"But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"*

It's actually quite amazing what Jesus is saying through this story...

Jesus is saying that Scripture alone is s_____ for people to know God and experience s_____. Scripture is even more compelling and more powerful than a man returning from death!

How do we know what to believe and how to live? From the Bible. It's our final authority. So back to our original question.. "What's the point of the Bible?"

It's to shows us what to _____ and how to _____. Ultimately, the Bible is... God r_____ Himself to us.

Martin Luther once said, "*When the Scriptures speak, God speaks.*" Every time we pick up the Bible, God is speaking to us.

It's crucial we understand this about God revealing Himself to us... It's NOT just that we may know _____ Him but that we would know Him _____.



Whole Group Discussion

What are some negative ways people have used the Bible for reasons other than to get to know God personally?

What would be some examples of people claiming we need more than just the Bible as our final authority?

How have you seen the power of God's Word in your life? In your marriage and/or family?

The theme throughout Scriptures shows us how we can know God personally... through the r_____ of mankind through the _____ and _____ of Jesus Christ.

The theme of Scripture can be summed up in one word: R_____. From Genesis to Revelation, and every book in between, is pointing to God's plan of redemption.

It's also of the utmost importance that we understand this... The Bible was given for t_____ not I_____.

Our mission on earth, according to Jesus, is to go and make disciples of all nations. Discipleship will never occur apart from the Word of God.

It's what God uses to _____ us up. 1 Peter 2:2-3 says... *"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good."*

Think of it this way: God uses the _____ of God through the _____ of God to produce _____ and _____ of God. We call this the I _____ of Scripture.

Definition of Illumination...

The Holy Spirit's ministry of _____ the disciple
u _____ the t _____ of the Bible.

Jesus described the illumination of the Holy Spirit this way to His disciples in John 16:13-14... *"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you."*

In 1 Corinthians 2:9-10, 12, the Apostle Paul puts it this way... *"But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him'—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God... Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God."*

We have been given the Bible for transformation not just information. As James put it in James 1:22-25 (NIV)... *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets*

what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do."



Small Group Discussion

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What are the four things the Bible will do in our lives? How have you seen this to be true in your life?

According to v. 17, what should be the ultimate result of reading and applying the Bible? In what ways have people forgotten this?

Go around and share how you can keep God's Word from just being about head knowledge in your life.



Prayer Focus

In what way(s) do you feel like you're "not equipped for every good work"? How are you struggling to study God's Word? Take some time praying for spiritual victory and motivation to pour into His holy Word.