

## Bible- The Authority Part One

It is fairly common today to have some knowledge of who Jesus is and say that one believes in Him, but to not really know anything about the Bible. Is that acceptable to God? In this lesson we are going to take a look at the Bible. What exactly is the Bible? Why do we have the Bible? Do we need it? What are we supposed to do with the Bible? Because there is so much information to cover on this topic it will be broken down into two parts.

### The inspired, inerrant Word of God

**Psalm 19:7-8** “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.” and **Psalm 119:140** “Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.” In a world in which there is a great deal of sin and corruption, God has given us a guide book which will light our way through this life, if we let it. His Word, the Bible, is a perfect and pure light which will lead us out of all of the darkness in life, if we will follow it. The Bible is a look into the mind of God.

**Proverbs 30:5-6** “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.” God’s Word, His Bible, is pure and will not lead us astray, if we follow it. His Word, should we adhere to it, will shield us from falling into sin and going down the wrong path in life, if we will obey it.

**John 8:31-32** “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” God’s Word is truth and will free us from sin, if we obey it. If we are faithful to God’s Word, we truly become followers of Christ, and can follow the path it leads us on straight into Heaven. God gave us His Bible so we could have a perfect guide, that would teach us how to get to Heaven.

**John 12:48** “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” God’s Word will judge us on Judgement Day. If we have received His Words, and followed them faithfully we will go to Heaven. This is why God, gave us the Bible so that we can know how to get to Heaven. However, if we reject God’s Word, we reject God. Those that reject God will not be in Heaven. One can not follow God but reject His Word.

**John 17:7-8** “Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.” God’s Bible is His will and plan for us to follow. The Bible shows us God’s will, and nothing else on earth can do that. Only through His Word can we know what God would have us to do.

**John 17:17** “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” God’s Word is given to us through inspiration, so it is true. Because the Bible was not given to us by man, and it came directly from God, we can trust it to be our perfect guide.

**2 Corinthians 5:18-19** “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.” God’s Word is given to us so that we can know how to lead a life that leads to eternity with Him. We can know that, because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, we have a path we can follow to salvation, because the Bible tells us so. The Bible lights our way on the only path to salvation. Without Jesus’s sacrifice and God’s word we do not have a pathway that leads us to God, and are lost eternally.

**Ephesians 6:13-18** “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” Only through the Bible can we know how to make ourselves ready to fight for the salvation of our souls. However, if we will fully follow God’s Word we will be fully prepared for battle and be victorious in the fight for our salvation. God gave us the Bible so we can be victorious, and save our souls, in order to spend eternity in Heaven. God did his part, Jesus died for us, and God gave us His Word, will we do our part, and follow God’s guide book?

**Hebrews 5:12-14** “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” and **1 Peter 2:2** “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.” God’s Word is the milk and meat of salvation. We must spend time with God’s word nourishing ourselves spiritually, just as our physical bodies need food to grow strong. We must take the time to learn God’s Word so that we can grow as Christians. We need to know and grow in God’s Word to nourish ourselves and grow spiritually. Spiritual nourishment can only come from God’s Word.

Complete, unified, indestructible

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” God’s Word does not come from men. God’s Bible, through inspiration, comes directly from His mind through men. God’s book is perfect and gives us all we need to know to live a life in obedience to Him. Without following the Bible we cannot lead a life that pleases God. We need only the Bible to be complete before God, nothing other than the Bible will lead us to Heaven.

**James 1:22-25** “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural

face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.” If we are willing to hear the Word of God, and then follow through by doing what He has told us to do, we will be blessed with a Heavenly home. God’s word is perfect and shows us the way to Heaven. If we choose to not hear God’s Word, or we hear it but will not obey it, we will not be blessed with a home in Heaven. It really is that simple! Follow the Bible or don’t, we all make a choice and will be rewarded or commended based on our own decision to follow, or not follow God’s Bible.

**1 Peter 1:23-25** “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.” God’s Word will endure forever and does not change. God’s standard for us is His Word, and it is not corruptible. We can count on God to fairly judge us by His Word, and that His Word does not change over time. What the Bible said yesterday, it still says today, and always will. Unlike man’s word, God’s Word does not change with the times, or the whims of the day. We can follow God’s Word and be saved, or not follow it and be lost. God wants us to be saved, that is why He gave us His Word, and wants us to not only follow it, but to share it with others.

**2 Peter 1:1-4** “Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” In the Bible, God has given us everything we need to be His faithful children and spend eternity with Him. He wants us to be in Heaven. God has given us free will so that we have the choice to follow the path He gives us in His Word, or we can reject it. Why would we choose to reject God? Don’t we want to go to Heaven? The Bible is perfect and complete so it is the only guide book that we need.

**2 Peter 1:20-21** “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” The Bible is a direct line to us from God’s mind. Man did not give us the Bible. The Bible is not what man thinks God wants us to know. The Bible is from God, through men He inspired to give us His will. The Bible is 66 books, written over an enormous time period over 1,500 years, around 35-40 inspired writers with many backgrounds, occupations, languages. Yet the Bible is in perfect harmony. The Bible is from God because only He could do that. Do you think if you have a book that is sent from God that perhaps you should wonder what is in it? Why wouldn’t you want to know?

The Word of God is...

**Psalm 119:9** “BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.” God’s Word is able to cleanse our souls, if we obey it. The Bible is a window into the mind of God. The Bible is an instruction book He gave us through inspiration, in order to know what we need to do to be in good standing with Him. No other book, or anything else, can give us this important insight. The Bible does us no good whatsoever if it sits on our table daily and is not opened. Shouldn’t we all be using the Bible to see what God expects of us?

**Matthew 13:15** “For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.” The Word of God is able to convert a heart that is open to it. If we open the Scriptures with an open heart wanting to learn what it says, and being willing to obey God, it will convert our hearts from worldly focus, to the much more important spiritual focus it needs to have. Should we not open the Scriptures with the correct attitude, we will not be open to receiving the salvation God wants to give us, and we will miss it.

**Matthew 24:35** “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” God’s Word is not going anywhere. Everything on earth will eventually be gone, but God’s Word will endure forever.

**Acts 20:32** “And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.” The Word of God is able to build up all those that are willing to obey it. The Bible is our guide to eternal salvation. However, if we choose to disobey the Word of God, or simply ignore it, we will not get the opportunity to be built up by it. We will be lost by our own choosing.

**Hebrews 4:12-13** “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” The Word of God is powerful. We will be saved or condemned by our choosing to obey or disobey it. How much more powerful can anything be? No man made device or weapon can save or condemn any one person, let alone all of humanity. God will not be fooled; He will know if we have lived obedient or disobedient to His Word. Shouldn’t this alone make us want to be familiar with the text we will all be judged by?

**James 1:22-25** “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.” The Word of God is perfect. God’s Book gives us all the information we need to obtain salvation. By the inspiration of God, the Bible has given to us exactly what we need to obtain salvation. We need no other information that is not in the Bible in order to be saved. However,

the Bible does us no good if we don't open it. The Bible does us no good if we know its words but do not obey them. We must both hear the Word and obey the Word, to be obedient to God. God has given us what we need to be saved, it is up to us to use it.

**1 Peter 1:22** "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:" The Word of God is purifying. All those that obey God's Word will be purified from their sins, no matter what they are. All those that stray away from following God's Word, but repent and correct their lives are purified before God. All those that remain obedient to God's Word will be purified before God and live with Him eternally.

Christ has all authority/ He gave us instructions

**Jeremiah 10:23** "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." We cannot find the way to salvation on our own. We need the instructions God gave us in the Bible to find salvation. If we follow God's instructions in the Bible salvation is ours. If we disregard the Bible's instructions, we can only blame ourselves for being lost. God gave us the Bible because He wants us to be saved.

**Matthew 28:18-20** "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Christ has all power. He wants us to go to Heaven so much He died for us and left us a full set of instructions on how to be saved. Jesus wants us all to learn and obey the instructions He has given us. Jesus also wants us to pass on His teaching to everyone that will listen. Jesus told us when we obey His commands, He is with us. When we obey the Bible's instruction we obey Jesus, when we fail to follow the Bible, we fail to follow Jesus. We cannot have salvation without following Jesus's teachings in the Bible. We can not follow Jesus or find salvation unless we are obedient to the Word. The idea of accepting the man, but not the plan does not work. To reject Jesus Word is to reject Jesus.

**John 17:17** "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." God's Word is truth. It is not my truth or your truth, it is simply the truth. The Bible will sanctify anyone and everyone that will faithfully obey it. We can not be sanctified before God and be disobedient to His Bible. No Book on earth, other than the Bible, is the inspired Word of God. If we want salvation, we must therefore want to know the Bible, so we can know how to be obedient to God.

**Colossians 3:16-17** "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." If we want to obtain eternal salvation, we must know the Word of God and live it. If we want to go to Heaven, we must know God's Word well enough that it is our guide to how we live our lives, and we strive very hard to live according to it. By knowing God's Word we can strengthen ourselves and fellow Christians as we try to live as God wants us to live.

**Hebrews 1:1-2** “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;” Christ only speaks to us today through His Word, the Bible. We have the Bible so that we can know Jesus’ teachings and be able to follow them. No one today receives direct knowledge from God, thus today the Bible is our only source of God’s will. We have the Bible so we can have the tools necessary to obtain salvation. The Bible is our only map to Heaven, we can choose to follow it and gain Heaven, or ignore the Bible, and lose out on Heaven. God gave us the Bible because He wants us to be saved, but we have to choose to follow it, and therefore follow Him.

Due to the length of information on this topic the lesson Bible- The Authority Part One will conclude at this point. The next lesson Bible- The Authority Part Two will continue and conclude this lesson topic.