

Lesson 2

What Does the Bible Say About Itself?

God said centuries ago, "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word" (Isaiah 66:2). If you want to have a good relationship with God, you must have a deep respect for His word. The purpose of this lesson is to establish that the scriptures emphatically claim to be God's word. God's people, beginning with Israel and continuing with the church, were very careful in copying, translating, and preserving those writings that were indeed inspired. Either the Bible is from God and thoroughly equips us to follow Him, or it is at its core a lie and worthy only of the trash heap because of what it claims to be.

2 Timothy 3:16-4:3 *The Bible is God's word.*

1. Where does scripture, the Bible, come from? *It's God-breathed.*
2. What does it do for us? *Thoroughly equips us to serve God – it is to be used for teaching us, rebuking us, correcting us, and training us to live according to the perfect will of God.*
3. **2 Timothy 4:2-4** - Why is a clear understanding of it important for us today? *Because teachers and preachers have been trained and are paid to teach what various groups want to believe. The only way we can know what is really from God is by carefully examining and studying the Bible.*
4. **Acts 17:11** - The Bereans checked out Paul's sermons with the scriptures.

Matthew 7:13-24 *Many Christians will be lost for obeying men rather than God's word.*

1. The word for "life" means spiritual, eternal life – life as God experiences it. What does Jesus say about getting this life? *He says that the road to life has a small entrance and a narrow path.*
2. What does this mean? *It means that we won't make it accidentally or carelessly.*
3. Who are these false prophets? *They wear wool suits (sheep's clothing) and they look and sound genuine, but they teach people to do "Christian" things without truly being obedient to Christ.*
4. Does Jesus really say that a lot of "Christians" aren't even saved? *He says many "Christians" are evil and have never known him.*
5. How can knowing the scriptures ourselves keep us from being one of these? *We'll do what God says rather than what men say God says.*
6. What is the key to knowing Christ? *The key is hearing his word (not man's) and obeying it.*
7. **1 John 2:3-6** - We know that we know Jesus by obeying him.
8. **John 12:47-48** - Christ's word is what judges us. We already have it.

Jeremiah 10:23

1. Can we determine the way to live without God? *No, it isn't in us.*
2. What will happen if we try to do it our own way? *We get lost.*

Jeremiah 17:9

1. Many say, “follow your heart.” What is the problem with simply following your heart without searching out God’s will? *The heart is very deceitful. Man’s heart is subjective, not objective. The Bible reveals God’s objective will.*
2. **Hebrews 4:12** - God’s word judges man’s heart. We alone can’t judge ourselves.
3. **Proverbs 14:12** - Man’s ways lead to death.
4. **1 Corinthians 4:4** - Our conscious does not clear us, only the Lord.

2 Peter 1:3-4, 16-21 *Peter’s eyewitness account*

1. What does our knowledge of Christ do for us? *It gives us what we need to become more like God.*
2. What is Peter’s testimony about Jesus? *As an eyewitness, he testifies that Jesus was from God. Peter was there!*
3. What does the validity of Christ do for the rest of the Bible? *The fact of Jesus’ divinity validates all of the prophets’ predictions about him and thus validates those scriptures.*
4. What must we understand “above all?” *The scripture is from God.*
5. What should our response to scripture be? *Pay careful attention to it, obeying God’s instructions given in it.*

Hebrews 4:12-13 *God’s words are living—men’s words are not.*

1. Describe God’s word. *It is living, active, penetrating, and convicting. God’s word lays our hearts before God – and, if we’re willing to be honest, before us as well.*
2. What do each of the characteristics mean to you? *The word lives and grows in us. It is active in changing us. It cuts to the heart and opens us up.*
3. **John 15:3** - The word cleans us out.
4. **Ephesians 6:17** - The word is the sword of the Spirit – His weapon. It’s a spiritual weapon for spiritual warfare.

1 Timothy 4:16 *God’s word demands our careful consideration.*

1. How much time and energy do most of us spend considering God’s will for our life?
2. What is “doctrine?” *Doctrine in this context means what is believed and taught about God and His will.*
3. How much effort do most of us put into developing correct doctrine?
4. What is the desired result of taking care of our life and doctrine—what’s at stake? *Both our and others’ salvation.*

1 Thessalonians 2:13

1. How should you respond differently to God’s word as opposed to men’s words?
2. How did the Thessalonian Christians respond?
3. How do you think their response showed up in their actions?
4. **1 Thessalonians 1:6-8, 2:14** - They imitated Christ and their faith became known everywhere.

Lesson 2

Homework

Reading the Word

Read Psalm 119.

Challenging Yourself

List the ways the Word of God will bless you.

Looking Ahead

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

1. How will knowing about Israel's history and interactions with God help us today in our walk with God?
2. **Romans 15:4** - What is the purpose of the Old Testament scriptures?