

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE
WEEK 3 – CAN WE TRUST IT?

Session plan

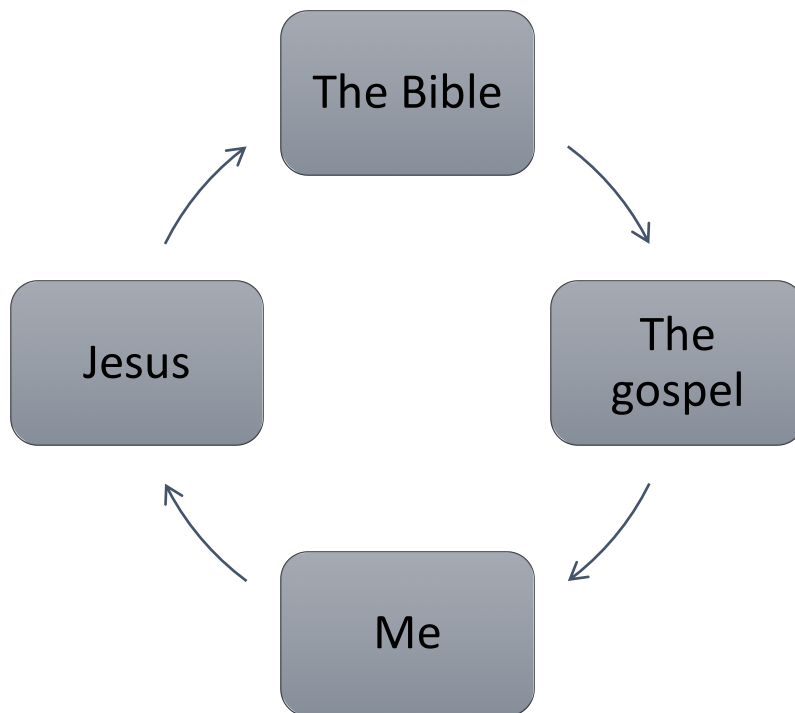
- Week 1 – What is the Bible?
- Week 2 – What is it about?
- Week 3 – Can we trust it? (etc.)
- Week 4 – How should we read it?

1. How do we come to trust the Bible? – The gospel, the Bible, Jesus and me

What happened in Thessalonica?

- 1 Thess 1:4-7; 2:13

- Acts 17:1-4



2. What did Jesus believe about the Bible? / What does Jesus teach us about the Bible?

Matthew 4:4 – an *essential* word

Remember: 2 Tim 3:16 – all *scripture* is God-breathed...

Note: *it is written...* - v4, v7, v10

Matthew 5: 17-19 – *full authority*

Matthew 15:3-6 – the word of God; not to be nullified – to be given *final* authority

Matthew 12:39-42 – a *historically trustworthy* record

Jesus references...

Abel, Noah, Abraham, Sodom and Gomorrah, Isaac, Jacob, manna in the wilderness, the serpent in the wilderness, Moses as lawgiver, David and Solomon, the Queen of Sheba, Elijah and Elisha, the widow of Zarephath, Naaman, Zechariah and even Jonah and the fish that swallowed him...

...never questioning a single event, a single miracle, or a single historical claim.

Matthew 19:4 – the word of our *Creator* – *sufficient* for every ultimately important issue

Matt 22:29-33 – an *error-correcting* word that God has *spoken to us*

Matt 22:43-44 – a human word spoken *in the Spirit* – *divinely inspired*; clear enough to be *understood*

Matt 24: 24, 39, 53-54 – a word requiring his own *costly submission*

Jesus held Scripture in the highest possible esteem. He knew his Bible intimately and loved it deeply. He often spoke with the language of Scripture. He easily alluded to Scripture. And in his moments of greatest trial and weakness—like being tempted by the Devil or being killed on a cross—he quoted Scripture.

His mission was to fulfill Scripture, and his teaching always upheld Scripture. He never disrespected, never disregarded, never disagreed with a single text of Scripture. He affirmed every bit of law, prophecy, narrative, and poetry. He never for a moment accepted the legitimacy of anyone anywhere violating, ignoring, refining, or rejecting Scripture.

Jesus believed in the inspiration of Scripture—all of it. He accepted the chronology, the miracles, and the authorial ascriptions as giving the straightforward facts of history. He believed in keeping the spirit of the law without ever minimizing the letter of the law. He affirmed the human authorship of Scripture while at the same time bearing witness to the ultimate divine authorship of the Scriptures. He treated the Bible as a necessary word, a sufficient word, a clear word, and the final word. It was never acceptable in his mind to contradict Scripture or stand above Scripture.

He believed the Bible was all true, all edifying, all important, and all about him. He believed absolutely that the Bible was from God and was absolutely free from error. What Scripture says, God says; and what God said was recorded infallibly in Scripture.

3. What about the New Testament? – Jesus, the Apostles and the Spirit of truth

John 14: 25-26

John 16: 12-15

4. You can trust the SCAN of scripture!

a) S = Sufficiency – God’s Word is enough

2 Timothy 3:15-17 ...from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are ABLE TO MAKE YOU WISE FOR SALVATION through faith in CHRIST JESUS. ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED for every good work. *(emphasis mine)*

Acts 20:32 Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Psalms 119:9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.

What topics does the Bible teach about?

The Bible contains everything we need for knowledge of salvation and godly and wise living – we don’t need any new revelation from heaven.

b) C = Clarity – God’s word is clear

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalms 119:130 The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

Psalms 19:7-8 The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple....The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

The clarity of scripture does NOT mean that *every passage has a simple or obvious meaning*

- some portions of scripture are clearer than others

But it DOES mean:

- **The main things we need to know, believe and do can be clearly seen in the Bible**
 - the most essential doctrines are not equally clear in every passage, but they are all made clear somewhere in scripture
 - the most important points in scripture may not be understood perfectly, but they can be understood sufficiently
- You don’t need to be highly educated to understand everything you need to understand to be saved and live a life that pleases God

William Tyndale (to a learned man)...

“If God spare my life many years I will cause a boy that drives a plough to know more of scripture than you do!”

c) A = Authority – God’s word is final

Everybody accepts some final authority – we give someone or something the last word

For the Christian following the example of Jesus, it is...

- not the traditions of the church
- not human reason
- not personal or community experience

The final authority belongs to...

- **the Bible**
 - To have the *final* authority, it’s *full* authority must be acknowledged
 - it is never wrong in **anything** it affirms
 - it is the last word on **everything** it teaches
 - To have the *final* authority, it’s *enduring* authority must be acknowledged
 - true in **every** age
 - true in **every** culture

d) N = Necessity – God’s word is needed

Remember the words of Jesus, quoting Deuteronomy:

Matthew 4:4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

- Necessary for us to know God
- Necessary for us to know God’s love and grace
- Necessary for us to know and do God’s will
- Necessary for us to grow up
- Necessary for us to be spiritual
- Necessary for us to be nourished
- Necessary for us to continue with Christ to the end and be saved

Hebrews 2:1 We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

Psalm 1

Blessed is the man

who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
or stand in the way of sinners
or sit in the seat of mockers.

² But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither.

Whatever he does prospers.

⁴ Not so the wicked!

They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

⁶ For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.