

How to Understand Your Bible-The Basics

Mini-Lecture #13

River Valley Community Church

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Four Important Questions to Answer

1. What is the Bible?
2. Why do we need to understand it?
3. Why is it difficult to understand?
4. How do we understand it?

What Is the Bible?

- It is the _____ of God, his _____ with people in history, and his _____.
- It is a collection of _____ writings.
- It is a collection of _____, _____ writings.

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

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20-21)

- It is _____ and _____.

All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal. (Psalm 119:160)

- It is centered in _____.

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed

heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. (Hebrews 1:1-3)

You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me. (Jesus, in John 5:39)

- It contains different _____ of _____ (history, apocalyptic, gospel, parables, poetry, wisdom, didactic, prophecy, etc.).

- It is not what people often think it is:
 - Rules and _____

 - Blessings and _____

 - Mirrors and _____

 - A _____ We Have already _____

- The Bible is a collection of stories that all shed light on the one Story about God and his ways and his will for us.

The Story

C _____ of Images (Gen. 1-2)	Oneness
C _____ Images (Gen. 3-11)	Otherness
C _____ C _____ & Confusion (Gen. 12-Mal.)	Otherness Expands
C _____, the Perfect Image, Redeems (Matt.-Rev. 20)	One in Christ
Consummation (Revelation 21-22)	_____ One

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

Why Do We Need to Understand It?

- God _____ us to.

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. (Acts 17:11)

- It can transform your life because the Bible contains God's _____ and _____ for your life.

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

Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures. Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you. (Psalm 119:89-91)

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

- It can transform your life because the Bible is the only source of _____ divine _____ for you.

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17)

- It can transform your life because the Bible is necessary in order to _____.

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation. (1 Peter 2:2).

Why Is It Difficult to Understand?

- It is _____ difficult to understand—God wants us to understand his word.
- It is difficult to understand—We tend _____ to want to _____ at it.
- It is difficult to understand—We must determine what the human author _____ his _____ to understand (*Exegesis* is historical investigation into the meaning of the text).
- It is difficult to understand—We have to overcome _____.
 1. The _____ Gap
 2. The _____ Gap
 3. The _____ Gap
 4. The _____ Gap
 5. The _____ Gap
 6. The _____ _____ Gap

How Do We Understand It?

- _____ we would with any other book.

- _____ we would with any other book.
 - We have to understand what the author intended his original audience to understand.

 - We must then figure out how that applies to us so that we can live out the Bible, which is our goal.

 - We need good interpretive methods.

 - We need the Holy Spirit's help.