

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Victory Baptist | Sunday School | 05/04/2025

Introduction:

We started a new series of studies on Wednesday night and I asked this same question: *What is the Bible?*

- On Wednesdays we are looking at the *nature* (the formal character or “genre” in a sense) of the Book we call the Bible.
 - ✓ Is it a history book? ...a religious book? ...a self-help book? What *kind* of Book is it?
 - ✓ We saw that the Bible is basically a “covenant corpus” (a body or collection of covenants).
 - This is most easily seen when you realize the Bible is made up of two main “covenants”: the Old Testament (a covenant) and the New Testament.
 - ✓ And so this is something I would like to study out a little more on Wednesday nights.

Today I would like to take a look at the Bible from a slightly different perspective: *What is the Bible?*

- Yes, it is a “covenant corpus” (a collection of covenants): “official agreements” that establish man’s relationship with God.
- But it is also God’s self-revelation to man.
- This is something we have seen before...

I. God is Unknowable

A. God is so different from us that is *impossible* for us to know Him if He does not reveal Himself to us in a way we can understand.

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. [Isa 55.8-9]

B. And that is precisely what He has done in and through His Word--Scripture.

10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

11 So shall **my word** be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall **accomplish** that which I please, and it shall **prosper** in the thing whereto I sent it. [Isa 55.10-11]

C. God used languages (words that communicate meaning) to reveal Himself to man because man, by God’s design, communicates with language (words).

II. God Wants to be Known! (*This is also something we’ve seen before...*)

And this *is* life eternal, that they might *know* thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. [John 17.3]

A. Jesus equates eternal life with *knowing* God.

1. The implication is that *knowing God* will be our *primary occupation* in eternity.
2. There will always be something new and wonderful and lovely and beautiful and fascinating to learn of God for all of eternity (which obviously will lead us to praise and worship Him!).

B. And if that will be our primary occupation in eternity, then it should be (and can be!) our primary occupation *today*.

- Why not? Why couldn’t it be? What’s stopping us from doing that? Because...

C. God specially and specifically revealed Himself in Scripture so we can know Him.

1. Again: Man by himself cannot know or understand God.

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. [1Cor 2.9]

2. But God gave us His Spirit so we can know Him (and the things of Him/God).

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. [1Cor 2.10-12]

3. And His Spirit teaches us about God by teaching us... words!

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. [1Cor 2.13]

a) Again: Man by himself cannot know or understand God.

I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. [John 16.12]

b) So God provided: He revealed Himself. He gave us His Spirit so we could know Him; and the Spirit of God in us guides us into all truth.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. [John 16.13]

(1) He guides us into all truth--Scripture (He teaches us the words of God).

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. [John 17.17]

(2) He guides us into all truth--the Lord Jesus Christ (through the words of God, learn of the Word of God, the Son of God, Jesus Christ--God's bodily communication to man!).

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. [John 14.6]

(3) [Side Note: 1Tim 3.15] And isn't it interesting that God said the local church was supposed to be the "**pillar and ground of the truth**" (the Scripture and the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ)?

(a) Do you know why there are so many corrupt versions of the Bible in so many churches today? Because local churches dropped the ball (failed in their stewardship)!

(b) Do you know why the Lord Jesus Christ is not preached and known throughout this country (or the world for that matter)? Because local churches dropped the ball (failed in their stewardship)!

D. Our eternal life in Christ consists of knowing God.

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. [John 17.3]

1. We know God through His self-revelation: Jesus Christ and the Scripture.

a) Christ lives in us (the Spirit of Christ; the Holy Spirit of God).

b) The Scripture is given to us in a Book we can hold in our hands: the King James Bible.

2. Like David Cloud said:

a) Being a serious Bible student is at the very heart of knowing God.

b) To study God's Word is the most fundamental and important and valuable thing in life.

Conclusion:

So on Wednesday nights we started a new study on the Bible as a covenant corpus, focusing on how God governs us through the “rules” He established in the covenants.

And on Sunday mornings (if you and the Lord permit), I’d like to talk about how we can read, study, and understand the Bible to simply know God, to know Him better every day, and by doing that to delight in Him more and more (that He would be our greatest and most permanent joy now and forever).

Think about the two studies (Wednesday and Sunday School) like this...

God is Light (1Jn 1.5)	God is Love (1Jn 4.8)
<p>God is light and in Him there is no darkness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is morally perfect, pure, and holy. • And He has called us to “be holy as He is holy,” to walk with Him in the light. • This is the focus of our study on Wednesday. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Through the covenants God seeks primarily to <u>govern</u> and guide us. ✓ Yes, through the covenants we also receive blessing, but the principal aspect of the covenants is God’s <u>dispensing</u> to us a <u>responsibility</u>. ✓ Based on the responsibilities God has given to us in our covenants, we will be judged (as stewards). • And so on Wednesday nights we are going to focus on how God gives us knowledge through Scripture in order to <u>govern</u> us. <p>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. [2Tim 3.16-17]</p>	<p>God is love; there is nothing bad in Him; He is all good, all the time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He never seeks His own, but rather the well-being of the object of His love: you! • This is why eternal life is equated with knowing God in John 17.3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ...because God is love and God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so you could be with Him and enjoy Him forever! • This is what I would like to focus on during Sunday School, on Sunday mornings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Through Scripture, rightly divided and correctly understood, we can <u>know</u> God and <u>grow</u> in the grace and knowledge of Him. • God gave us the Scripture so we could <u>start</u> knowing Him now... <p>And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. [John 17.3]</p>
Our purpose in life...	
<p>To glorify God (by finishing the work He gave us to: being and making discipleship of the Lord Jesus Christ)...</p> <p>I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. [John 17.4]</p>	<p>...and to enjoy Him forever.</p> <p>And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. [John 17.3]</p>