

4) Scripture, the Bible & it's Purpose

Some people view the Bible as simply another ancient text, an artifact of history. Some read it for its historical value, some for its literary value. Some see it as a collection of myth and legend. And some see it as the written word of God. So how should we approach the Bible, and what is it's purpose? Fortunately, the Bible has much to say and teach us about itself. Let's find out ...

John 5:39. Certainly Scripture contains history, poetry, prophecy, and more. But Jesus made it very clear that the primary purpose of Scripture was to reveal Himself to us. To help us see, understand, and embrace Him, His mission, and His eternal gospel.

Luke 24:25-27. Shortly after His resurrection, Jesus used the Bible of His day, the Old Testament, to show some of His disciples how all of the Bible pointed to Him and His mission.

John 17:3. The purpose of the Bible, is to reveal God, to help us know God, intimately as our Creator, Redeemer, and friend.

Matthew 4:4. Jesus said we should live by every word that proceeds from God's mouth. Before sin, God could communicate directly with Adam and Eve, but sinned changed that. A perfect holy God is as a consuming fire to sin and sinners, so in His mercy God could no longer communicate face to face with fallen humans. But He could, and did, have His word's written down for all people of all time in a book we call the Bible.

1 Peter 2:2. The Bible is something that everyone needs, and Christians especially should desire. It is written in a way that even a child can grasp its simple truths, while adults can ever study and never fully plumb it's depths.

Ephesians 6:17. The Bible is part of our defense against Satan and offense to grow in grace and in sharing the gospel.

Psalms 119:11. The practical truths of Scripture help us resist sin.

2 Timothy 3:15-17. The entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is inspired by God. It is where doctrine should be derived from, it thoroughly instructs us in what is right and what is wrong.

2 Peter 1:20,21. The Holy Spirit is truly the Author of the Bible as the men who wrote it did so under the Spirit's inspiration. As such, men are not at twist or distort the Bible's true meaning to suit their personal desires or goals.

John 16:13. The Bible is the primary means for the Holy Spirit to guides us into all truth, and most importantly, the truth about Jesus.

Psalms 119:18,27. We should be praying that the Spirit will lead us, asking for His guidance.

Isaiah 28:9-10. To avoid misunderstanding the Bible, it is very vital to see/understand what it says on any given subject matter through the Bible, not just an isolated verse. And study passages in context. It can be helpful to seek assistance from godly people (Prov 11:14).

James 1:5. God will certainly answer the sincere prayer for wisdom to understand spiritual matters.

1 Corinthians 3:1,2. Paul kindly rebuked the Corinthian Christians that they had not grown/matured further in spiritual matters.

James 1:22-25. God's grace offers both forgiveness and power for growth/victory. To not grow in truth, or to not walk the truth God shows and convicts us of, or not care to, is a denial of God's full grace.

Joshua 1:8. The result of spending time in God's word, includes experiencing His blessings.

John 3:1-17. The greatest of Bible truths is that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. Because of God's love, Jesus Christ died for our sins and purchased our freedom. He has redeemed mankind back to the Father. But only those who will accept Jesus as Lord and Savior will receive, experience, and benefit from His gift.