

Why Do We Study the Bible?

II Timothy 3:14-17

December 27, 2009

We study the Bible because it is God's word, because of its work in human history, and because it is sufficient for our every need. Think about this for a moment: the Bible on your desk or lap is the very words of God spoken directly to you! These very words have done mighty and marvelous things throughout history. The words of this book, and only this book, are sufficient for every issue in our lives.

1. A. Why is it important to us to have a clear view of what the Bible is?
 - B. Imagine your view of Scripture as a watershed issue. Just as drainage from two snow flakes on a watershed ridge may flow to completely different places (the Pacific Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico), our view of Scripture may lead us to very different places when carried to their ultimate conclusion. Think on this for a moment: do you question the historicity of the Scripture? What about the moral authority of the Scripture?
 - C. What has happened in the evangelical church today concerning nature of biblical inspiration and authority? What happens when our view of Scripture questions its historicity or its moral authority?
2. Take time to carefully look at why we study the Bible. Relate each Scripture reference to the to its inspiration, its work, or its sufficiency.

First, we study the Bible, the Scripture, because it is God's word, it is the result of the breath of God in the lives of those who wrote it down.

I Chronicles 28:19, Psalm 119:160, Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 21:42, 22:29, 24:35, 26:54, 56, Luke 24:25-27, 44-46, I Corinthians 14:37, I Timothy 5:18, II Timothy 3:14-17, I Peter 1:10-12, II Peter 1:20-21, 3:14-16

Look also at the Scripture's prophetic accuracy, Old Testament and New Testament reference to the Old Testament. (There are may more, here is a sample; refer to the sermon notes for more references.)

Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23

Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:6

Zechariah 9:9, Matthew 21:5

Second, we study the Bible because of its work. It is unique in its activity, in its transforming power.

Isaiah 55:10-11, Romans 12:2, I Thessalonians 2:13, II Timothy 3:14-17, Hebrew 4:12-13, I Peter 1:23

Third, we study the Bible because it is sufficient in everything. It is sufficient historically (Jesus believed it!) and it is a stable foundation for our lives, fully equipping us for every good work.

Matthew 7:24-27, 12:39-41, 19:4-6, 24:37-39, Luke 16:19-31, John 5:38-47, II Timothy 3:14-17

What is the point to all this? The scripture is not dated, it will not go out of date or become obsolete. It is just as powerful and useful as it has ever been and always will be powerful and useful because it is "God breathed." Why do we not spend more time in it? Why not commit to changing how much time you spend in the Bible and pray "Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law." It takes time to be "equipped for every good work."

II Peter 1:12-15

Why Do We Study The Bible?

I. Because it is God's Word

- It is Inspired **II Timothy 3:16**
- Men wrote, God Superintended
II Peter 1:20-21, Acts 27:15
- The writers knew it **I Peter 1:10-12**
- The writers referred to their writings as Scripture **II Peter 3:14-15; I Timothy 5:18—Luke 10:7; I Corinthians 14:37**
- Jesus referred to their writings as Scripture **Luke 24:27-44**
- Jesus repeatedly quoted them as Scripture **Matthew 21:42; 22:29; 26:54**
- It has divine qualities, like its maker.
- Eternal: **Matthew 24:35**; Reliable: **Isaiah 40:8**; True: **Psalm 119:160**;
- Prophetically accurate: (see back)

II. Because of its Work

- It is living and active
Hebrews 4:12-13
- It works in the hearts of men
I Thessalonians 2:13
- By it we are born again
I Peter 1:23
- It leads us to salvation
II Timothy 3:15
- Its words are not wasted
Isaiah 55:10-11

III. Because of its Sufficiency

- Historically as well as in matters of faith **Matthew 12:39-41; 19:4; 24:37**
- The people of God are fully equipped by it **II Timothy 3:16-17**
- It is a sufficient witness & message
John 5:30-47; Luke 16:19-31
- It is stable as a foundation for our lives **Matthew 7:24-27**

Prophetic Accuracy of the Scripture

Christ was to be (1) born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23), **(2)** of the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:3; Gal 3:8), **(3)** of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10; Hebrews 7:14), **(4)** of the line of David (Psalm 110:1; Romans 1:3); **(5)** born at Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:6), **(6)** anointed of the Spirit (Isaiah 61:1f; Luke 4:18f). He was to **(7)** ride into Jerusalem on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:5), **(8)** be betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9; John 13:18), **(9)** be sold for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12f; Matthew 26:15; 27:9f), **(10)** be forsaken by His disciples (Zechariah 13:7; Matthew 26:31,56), **(11)** be pierced in His hands and in His feet, but not have a bone broken (Psalm 22:16; 34:20; John 19:36; 20:20, 25). Men were **(12)** to give Him gall and vinegar to drink (Psalm 69:21; Matthew 27:34), **(13)** to part His garments and to cast lots for His vesture (Psalm 22:18; Matthew 27:35). He was to be **(14)** forsaken of God (Psalm 22:1; Matthew 27:46), and **(15)** buried with the rich (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60). He was to **(16)** rise from the dead (Psalm 16:8-11), **(17)** ascend on high (Psalm 68:18; Ephesians 4:8), and **(18)** sit at the Fathers right hand (Psalm 110:1; Matthew 22:43-45).