

“How To Study and Understand the Bible”

[Church Notes]

Lesson 1: The Purpose of the Bible (General and Special Revelation)

It's origin: “*God-Breathed*”

It's Purpose: “*It is Useful*”

Three words that Paul uses:

I. Salvation

Understand the purposes it *does not have*:

1. It is not meant to be *Scientific*
2. The Bible is not *Literary*
3. It is not *Philosophical*

II. Christ

- This “*Salvation*” that the Bible speaks of is available only through “*Christ*.” And He is spoken of in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. Jesus said... (John 5:39; Luke 24:27, 44)
- The fundamental relationship between the OT and the NT, according to Christ, is that between _____ and _____.
 - In the *Law* – (the first 5 books of the Bible)
 - *The seed of Eve would bruise the serpents head (Gen. 3:15)*
He would be human
 - *Through Abraham all nations would be blessed (Gen. 12:3)*
He would be of Jewish descent or of the seed of Abraham.
 - *The “scepter will not depart from Judah.” (Gen. 49:10) He would be a descendant from the tribe of Judah.*
 - In the *Prophets* – The prophets described the Messiah with four characteristics to His reign. He would bring _____, *Justice*, *Universality* and *Eternity*.
 - In the *Writings* – (the Psalms, the wisdom literature)
- **Christ in the New Testament**
- **Through Faith** – (Romans 10:17; 1:16; John 20:31)

III. Revelation: God's Self – Disclosure

The word “revelation” means an “*uncovering, a removal of the veil, a disclosure of what was previously unknown.*”

1. _____ Revelation – God reveals Himself through *Nature*.
 - a. *Wonders* of Nature – the heavens, sun, moon, stars – the beauty of the earth, sea, mountains and skies, grass, flowers and forests. God causes it to rain on the just and unjust alike (Matt. 5:45) The universe a whole manifests God as creator.
 - b. Experience of *Humans* – God reveals Himself in men and women. We are made in His image – (Gen. 1:26-27) The capacity to feel, love, and relate.
 - c. Workings in *History* – All history bears the imprint of God’s activity and thus reveals God and His nature.
2. _____ Revelation – this provides the viewpoint through which we can fully understand and appreciate God’s revelation.
3. _____ Revelation – God’s special revelation is available to specific people at specific times in specific places. We can only get this now through “*Scripture*.”
 - a. Special revelation is first “*Particular*” because God reveals Himself to His people. His people are “*Natural*” (Gen. 12:1-3) meaning they are descendants of Abraham or of “spiritual decent” (Gal. 3:16,29).
4. _____ revelation – God has disclosed Himself in a *Direct Way*.