

# The Clarity of Scripture

Psalm 119:130

- Scripture is the only book that provides true answers to life's most important questions and accurately reflects reality.
- The Bible is the inspired Word of God, originating in the mind of God and communicated to humanity through human language.
- The Bible is not a myth but a historically and textually reliable record of God's revelation.
- Unbelief in the Bible is caused not by a lack of evidence, but by the spiritual blindness of the human heart.
- The many prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled with remarkable precision in the New Testament.

*The Bible possesses real authority because it is written clearly enough to be understood.*

- **Mysticism**
- **Roman Catholicism**
- **Subjectivism**

The Bible teaches that Scripture is sufficiently clear to lead people to salvation and to a fulfilling life in Christ.

*All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed, for salvation, are so clearly propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them<sup>1</sup>.*

*The Holy Spirit, with remarkable wisdom and loving concern for our spiritual well-being, has arranged the Scriptures in such a way that the clearer passages satisfy the soul, while the more difficult ones stir us to deeper study. For almost nothing found in the obscure passages is not taught elsewhere in language that is clear and plain.*

*I am convinced that God designed it this way to humble human pride through the labor of careful study and to keep us from taking His truth for granted, since we often value less what can be obtained without effort<sup>2</sup>.*

**Ps. 119:130** The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

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<sup>1</sup> The Westminster Confession of Faith, 1.7 <https://learn.ligonier.org/articles/westminster-confession-faith>

<sup>2</sup> Saint Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine*, Book II, ch. 6

## I. The Form of Divine Revelation – The Word

**Ps. 119:130** The unfolding **of your words** gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

**Mat. 5:17-18** Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished

Yahweh יהוה

בן (*ben*) – son

בין (*bein*) – between

ד (*dalet*)

ר (*resh*)

dessert – a sweet course after a meal

desert – a dry region (or to abandon)

**Mat. 5:17-18** Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

**Gal. 3:16** Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, 'And to offsprings,' referring to many, but referring to one, 'And to your offspring,' who is Christ.

**Mat. 19:3-6** And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, 'Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?' He answered, '**Have you not read** that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.'

**Mat. 21:16** And they said to him, 'Do you hear what these are saying?' And Jesus said to them, 'Yes; **have you never read**, "Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise"?'

**Mat. 4:3-4** And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, '**It is written**, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

**Deut. 30:11-14** For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

## II. The Method of Divine Revelation – Understanding

**Ps. 119:130** The unfolding of your words gives light; it **imparts understanding** to the simple.

**Ps. 119:15** I will **meditate** on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

**Ps 119:48** I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will **meditate** on your statutes.

**Ps 119:97** Oh how I love your law! It is my **meditation** all the day.

**Ps. 1:1-3** Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and **on his law he meditates day and night**. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.

### **Meditating on Scripture involves:**

- Careful reading of what is written.
- Studying the meaning of words and their grammatical forms.
- Gaining a proper understanding of the context.
- Observing the flow of thought.
- Comparing Scripture with other passages of Scripture.
- Applying its meaning to your life

**Mat. 4:5-7** Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, **for it is written**, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, '**Again it is written**, "**You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.**"'

### ***Scripture interprets Scripture.***

*The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself; and therefore, when there is a question about the true and full sense of any scripture, it must be searched and known by other places that speak more clearly<sup>3</sup>.*

**Ps. 119:12** Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!

**Ps. 119:18** Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

**Ps. 119:27** Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works.

**Ps. 119:34** Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

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<sup>3</sup> The Westminster Confession of Faith, 1.9

**Deut. 29:29** The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

### **III. The Purpose of Divine Revelation – Illumination**

**Deut. 29:29** The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, **that we may do all the words of this law.**

**Ps. 119:130** The unfolding of your words **gives light**; it imparts understanding to the simple.

- **Scripture Is the Means of Salvation**

**Eph. 1:13** In him you also, when you heard **the word of truth**, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.

- **Scripture Keeps Life Pure**

**Ps. 119:9** How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

- **Scripture Gives Strength for Victory Over Sin**

**Ps. 119:11** I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

- **Scripture Is a Source of Joy**

**Ps. 119:16** I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

**Ps. 119:24** Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.

**Ps. 119:47** For I find my delight in your commandments, which I love.

**Ps. 119:92** If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

**Ps. 119:103** How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

**Ps. 119:162** I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil.

- **Scripture Fills the Heart with Peace and Stability**

**Ps. 119:165** Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

- **Scripture Illuminates the Practical Situations of Life**

**Ps. 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

- **Scripture Brings Success**

**Josh. 1:8** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

### **Why Do We Believe the Bible?**

*Because it is God's means of bringing us into union with Christ, illuminating every sphere of life, revealing reality as God sees it, and transforming our thinking through the mind of Christ.*