

# KNOW THE TRUTH

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## INTRODUCTION

about truth, so, if you guys were here last week, we kind of went through and talked about, you know, knowing what truth is, right? We tackled the question, what is truth? You know, we kind of came to the realization that there are a lot of different rulers out there, remember? We all have one and we like to measure each other or measure ourselves with them mainly. Actually, that's not true. Sometimes, we do like to measure each other with our rulers, right?

It's like, I don't think they be wearing that. Well, they seem just fine with it. So, their ruler says it's okay. So, but anyway, we learned that a lot of people have a bunch of different rulers that we like to measure things with but we can only measure things by what the word of God says because it is the true ruler, right? Right? So, and where your ruler doesn't line up with this ruler, then, your ruler is what?

Okay, good. Alright, so you guys paid attention. See, we know that. So, we already know that which ruler we should be listening to, correct? Alright? Jesus when he was praying for us in John 17:17, you don't have this verse so don't try to put it up there. he said, sanctify them in your truth for your word is truth.

So, Jesus fully believes that this is what? The truth, right? And Jesus never lies, right? Alright, so therefore, what is this? I thought you're going to say a Bible. Yeah, it is.

It's truth, right? We know that because Jesus said so. so, the thing is is we all know what correct ruler we should be measuring everything by, right? So, How well do you know this ruler Yeah. Anyway, that's what we're going to be talking about today.

## KNOW THE STANDARD

### Acts 17:10–12 (ESV)

The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.

So, if you do got your Bibles, go ahead and you can flip em open to Acts 17 if you want to. Otherwise, it'll be on the screen like it usually is. we're going to be reading in a passage where you know, Paul, we all love Paul, right? Yeah and he was always a great guy even

from the beginning, right? Amen Now, now, you must be thinking of that Saul guy. Yeah, he was terrible. Like to kill Christians.

Had a bad habit of it actually. anyway, but Paul's all better now and he's preaching and he was preaching in I think Thessalonica, right? just before this and the Jews there didn't like that. So, they kicked him out and so then Paul like he usually does finds another place to preach and he starts preaching to the Bereans, right? Does everyone know this story? I'll be honest. I've read Ac probably a dozen times and I have glossed over this part of the Bible so many times but when you're looking for truth, you know, it has a way of finding it. This is they're talking about Paul and Silas.

And when they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue, you know? Don't waste any time. Get that word out and says, now, these Jews were more noble than the ones in Thessalonica. So, two things stand out, right? Remember, they were just preaching to the Thessalonians. They didn't like it one bit.

They rushed them out of the city and tried to cause all sorts of chaos and these Bereans, they listened to the same message. I'm sure Paul preached the same message very often. You know, Jesus saves and you need him, right? Pretty much of the message to preach. and they were willing to listen, right? It says, they received it eagerly. Different the Thessalonians, right?

They received it eagerly but then right there is the is what I want us to look at. Right? So, here's Paul. Remember in Paul when he was Saul was a very well sought after, well-decorated Jewish guy, right? He was he's very educated. So, he knows his stuff, right?

And so, you that the Jews knowing who Paul was or Saul when he was Saul, they would say, this guy knows his stuff. He knows his Scripture. I should believe him, right? Well, they did, right? They received the word eagerly but then they doubled down and said, look, you know, I can't just take Paul's word for it. What did they do?

They they you know, they they mumble, mumble, mumble. Yeah, they they read it themselves, right? They went to the scriptures themselves and says, I need to make sure that this Paul guy isn't blowing smoke up my skirt. I guess that was what they were wearing and they needed to check it out, right? They needed to go and check and see the scriptures is what Paul is saying. Are the connections he's making?

Are they true, right? Cuz I can get up here and you guys think very highly of me and I know you do because you tell me all the time. Man, that brother, that was a great sermon. I really enjoyed that book. I'm I'm not making fun of anybody. I appreciate the compliments but the thing is, I know you guys think very highly because even Jason will say Daniels, our Bible guy back there and like, I'm like, oh my gosh.

I got, this is quite the level I gotta live up to. You know, so I'm I know I could probably come to anyone. If you have a Bible question and I answer it, you're probably going to take

my word for it, right? Maybe I don't know unless it gets and also you guess what I say. I am very sarcastic but the thing is is that it's good to go out and get teaching but it's bad to rely on the teaching of men as your final authority. Right?

Because you need to be checking against the ruler everything everyone says, right? So, the thing is, it's like, you know, this is Paul. This is the this is the head guy. This is the guy that knows his stuff and they still said, you know, Paul, I believe you but you know, we're going to check this out and guess what? They did and they were very excited and they all got saved and with what I think is the most awkwardly worded phrase in all of the Bible. What was it?

So, I guess more than a few. anyway, I don't know. I had to read that three times before I even planned on actually putting in there but the result is the same. When the truth is preached and you can verify it against scriptures, you know, God does stuff, right? So, we want to make sure that happens. Alright. So, we all want this thing called biblical discernment, right?

We would all want to instantly know everything in our lives and how it measures up to this ruler, right? Yeah, we all want that and it's and seeing the thing is is that if you want that, then you need to know it, right? because I'll tell you guys, there's a lot there's a lot of I'll just say it. There's a lot of lies out there, right? and we're going to look at that a lot next week. Spoiler alert. I'm preaching next week. we're going to look at a lot of that next week about the lies and stuff out there but have you guys ever heard when people talk about the authority or truthfulness of Scripture?

## **KNOW THE GENUINE**

They bring up counterfeit money. Now, I did want to talk to Jayden before because Jaden actually works at a credit union, not a bank. Don't ever accuse her of working at a bank. She works at a credit union and if you don't know the difference, neither do I. Because they loan money just like a bank does. They charge you interest just like a bank does and they they look just like a bank.

Anyway, but she works at a credit union and I wanted to ask her if this was really true because I've repeated this story many times and now that I'm preaching on making sure that you verify that things are true before you utter them out of your mouth, I was like, well, I better check on this to make sure before I repeat it again but I'm going to repeat it again and if I'm lying, Jayden is going to stand up and say, that's a lie. You ready for that? Okay. Anyway, so the old saying goes that bank tellers are trained to spot counterfeit money, okay? Cuz you know, there's counterfeit money out there. There's people that want to print little pictures of presidents on paper and get paid for it and we're not talking about the treasury but the the trained to spot counterfeit money and the way that they do it is not

by showing them a big sack full of counterfeit bills that they found like this one's obviously fake.

This one's fake. No, they don't do that. They don't ever let them see the fake stuff. What they do is they train them on the real stuff. Is that true? Cuz you have to do like actual training on this?

Was it a computer-based training where you just click through all the answers and got the, okay. Alright, was did a guy come in and like show you \$100 bill and like, here's the stuff you want to do? I don't even know how they trained you then. Anyway, but the thing is, is that the idea of it is, is that if you can become intimately familiar with the genuine article that you will spot a fake instantly, right? And I'll be, I'll, I'll be honest, you know, when I was younger, I loved, I, I, I, I don't want to say I loved money. I was fascinated by money.

Coins, dollar bills, all that stuff. I loved all the little security features. In fact, actually, I wasn't going to actually do this but you know, I was just going to talk about it but alright, here is a \$100 bill, alright? I need a volunteer. Yeah. So, eager this week.

Now, I don't really need a volunteer. I just wanted to see who wanted this 00 dollars. but here is \$1\$00 bill, right? And it's a pretty neat little piece of paper not only in the fact that you can buy a 00 McDoubles like 20 years ago, but it's a pretty neat little piece of paper. There's a lot of security that goes into making sure that the ones that they make are real and the ones that other people make are not, right? Have you guys ever looked at money before, real close and looked at the security features? Alright, if you have, I can't obviously show this to everybody. if you have you know, money in your wallet, you don't need \$100 bill.

It works with anything a 10 and up. There's some security features on them too but just look at it. There's some cool stuff on this thing. If you want to play that or put that next slide up that's really tiny, watch everyone squint. Yeah. So, this is a little thing on the internet that shows about all the cool security features that are on \$1100 bill.

I mean, there's some neat stuff on here. The first and foremost thing you see is this blue stripe on it. Have you ever seen that? It's a 3D hologram printed right on this bill and not only is it printed on the bill, it's actually woven into the bill. There's actually a little piece of paper over here that it goes into. There's also a invisible strip that you can't see on this part of the bill.

That's that thing over there. Check with the light. I had no idea that this was a thing. I'm cool. I carry a flashlight. I have a black light, right?

Do you see that stripe in there? You can't see it. Can you not see it? You can't see that No. No. I'm not going to let you hold it.

Alright. What color is it? Pink. It's pink, right? Magenta. Yeah.

This the stripe is actually reacts with UV light. It actually turns different colors depending on which bill you have like 10 or yellow, \$5 or blue. It was all sorts of I had no idea. That was a cool thing. Sorry, I'm flashing people with my black light. what other cool things on there? Another cool thing I meant or that I've always known is the ink on there.

This is on every bill \$10 and up. It's it's gold or copper and then you tilted and it turns green, right? I don't have a printer that can do that, do you guys? Cuz if you do, I talk about this afterwards. Another cool thing, alright? The coat on every single bill, \$10 and higher is actually textured.

Did you know that? I didn't know that. Who said yes? You knew that? How'd you know that? You've looked at it and just noticed that it was textured?

Yeah, I, this is the first time. Guys, this is this is new for me, alright? I didn't know that. This is actually textured ink on here that you can actually feel that it's real. Not to mention that there's a lot of micro printing that you can only see with like a microscope and all sorts of stuff, yellow things and then, we all know the Try not to bla guys. We, the, you see the watermark back there?

Little Benjamin back there? Yeah, that's on every bill. Anyway, so there's a lot of stuff in this bill that makes it genuine, right? And if you didn't know these things, you'd take any rectangle that says \$100 on it and say, yeah, it must be real, right? I know I would but let me put this back in my wallet before I accidentally drop it I accidentally, I was going to make a big joke, make you guys all pull out money and say, alright, now, we're going to pass the offering plate. I didn't do that joke.

It would have been hilarious though. anyway, but the thing is, it's like, you know, you look at all the security features on money and like when when you all realize that they're there, like, you know, you should get in the habit of like looking at it, you know, because I have never received counterfeit money that I know of. I've been in places that have received counterfeit money and they showed it to me. I'm like, man, that's actually pretty good. but the current estimate is there's about \$15 million dollars of counterfeit money in circulation right now. Alright, that's lot of lies out there and you know, the thing is, that sounds like, who thinks that's a lot of money?

That is a lot of money. It is a lot of money. That's a lot of money but the truth is guys, only about 1 in 80, 000 bills is counterfeit. So, it doesn't sound like that much now that I said it. You have a very slim chance of actually ever encountering counterfeit money but you should recognize when it happens and see and here's the thing, you know, we put a emphasis on making sure that money is real when we're looking at it but guys, there's a lot of lies out there. Now, if lies were money and truth was money, I would say that there's more lies out there than there's truth, right?

Would people agree with that? Yeah. Okay. and see and we're all worried about making sure that money is real but sometimes we don't really care on the lies, you know, making sure that they're real. So, Jayden was my money training good enough. Are these all qualified to now be a bank teller at the Panhandle Federal Credit Union Credit Union. Oh, sorry.

You're right. A credit union teller, not a bank teller. I swear, if your name tags us, bank teller on it. Ah doesn't have a name tag. I'll make you one. Anyway, but see the thing is, is that, you know, recognizing the real article helps us realize when things are not right, right? same way, I want you to know this book inside and out because when someone says something, that they say is in the Bible, if you know this thing, you're going to instantly go.

That's the sound the Holy Spirit makes in my noise whenever something's wrong. I don't know what it makes head but like when I hear something that's not in this Bible and people feel like it is, I always hear this like it's it's not right, right? And see and that's the thing. That's the that's the original lie because last week, we looked in Genesis three, remember that? And we had Adam and Eve and what did the what did the serpent say? What did the devil say?

What was, how did he open up his little phrase?

## **DID GOD ACTUALLY SAY?**

He said, did God actually say, right? He took the words of God and said, did he actually say it? Neve was faced with the moment in her in this moment where she says, well, I don't know. What did God actually say? She had to produce the right answer, right? Cuz that's what was being asked of her.

Did God actually say and then she tries to quote what she knows to be true back to him and it turns out she got it wrong, right? Not as wrong as the serpent was trying to make it but she did get it wrong, okay? So, we're going to play a game, alright? No, you do not win \$100. Now, we're going to play a game called Is It in the Bible. You guys ready to play?

Alright, I'm going to read a statement. You tell me, is it in the Bible, alright? How do you guys want to do this? Raise of hands or just shout it out. Shout it out. It's easier to hide when he get the wrong answer.

You're like, no, Rory is. Yeah, but they said, alright. The statement, follow your heart. Is it in the Bible? No. No, it is not in the Bible.

In fact, Jeremiah seventeen ninety-nine says, the heart is deceitful above all things and is desperately sick, who can understand it, right? Who would want to be following something that is desperately sick? Alright, no. Alright, is it in the Bible? Guard your heart. Yes, it actually is.

Proverbs 423 says, keep or guard your heart with all vigilance. for from it, it will flow the springs of life. Alright, let's keep going. You guys like this game? Alright. God will never give you more than you can handle. No, it's not in the Bible.

What you're thinking of is first Corinthians 1013 where is they talk about temptation and it says that he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability. alright? So, but God never promises that he will not actually bring you into hardship that you can't handle because sometimes that's what gets you out of the pit. Alright, money is the root of all evil. Is it in the Bible? Money is not the root of all evil For therefore, it says from first Timothy six 10, for the love of money is the root of all kinds of evils, alright? So, be careful with that because people like to look at rich people and say they're evil for having a lot of money and that's not true.

Alright, here we go. Speak your truth. Is it in the Bible? I'm literally telling you guys to tell the truth. Speak your truth. Is it in the Bible?

Nah. Key difference. Yeah. Like Lexi wants to get up here and explain so hard. Yeah No, you don't want to speak your truth. What do you want to speak?

The truth. Yes. Ephesians 415 says, rather speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way and to him that is the who is Christ. Also, in verse twenty-five, it says, that you should speak the truth with your neighbor, alright? So, we need to speak the truth not your truth because we found out there's some wrong truths out there. Alright, love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, is it in the Bible?

Yes, everyone knows this one. First Corinthians chapter thirteen, read every single Christian wedding and some non-Christian weddings, alright? If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. Yep, it's in there. That's actually one of the verses that it was in that book I was telling you guys about the book or the thing that shaped America. You guys know the whole punk Pocahontas, John Smith guy.

Right? They made a whole Disney movie about him. Actually, use this verse because the people that were there were more interested in digging for gold than they were digging farms to actually eat and he said, look, if you're not digging for farms, you're not eating any of this food that we're growing, alright? Yeah. Use that verse, change the whole nation, right? where we God helps those who helps themselves. Is it in the Bible?

Now, it is not in Scripture. In fact, Romans five six says, for while we were still weak at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. You know, so he kept us weak but he still died for us. Alright. That was not funny. Why are you going back?

Alright, a soft answer turns away wrath. Yes, it's in the Bible. Proverbs fifteen one, we know the of that. God wants you to be happy. Oh man, there's a lot of murmuring on this one. God wants you to be happy.

Is it in the Bible? I see some head shaking. I hear a couple nos. No, it is not in the Bible. Not as stated. Now, you could read a lot of Scripture and you could infer that God wants to us to be happy.

We pull verses like you know, he wants the best for those who love him and all that stuff but if God wants us to be anything, it is holy, alright? First Peter 115 says that, alright? We shouldn't judge anyone, is it in the Bible? What about judge not yet lest you be judged? We shouldn't judge anyone. Is it in the Bible?

No, it's not in the Bible. Alright, John seven verse twenty-four says, do not judge by appearances but judge with right judgment. See, Jesus doesn't forbid all judgement. He just commands right judgment, alright? We as Christians are called to judge because everyone feels like we shouldn't judge each other but if you see a Christian brother doing something you know to be wrong, judge rightly, right? Bad company ruins good morals.

Is it in the Bible? Of course it is. Your friends are very important. Pick good ones. Alright, be true to yourself. Is it in the Bible?

It is not in the Bible. You should not be true to yourself. It says actually in Luke nine verse twenty-three that you should deny yourself and take up your cross daily. the truth will set you free. Yes, it is in the Bible. Of course, John eight verse 3-one says, abide in my, if you abide in my word, then you are truly my disciples and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free. So, pay attention.

Alright, cleanliness is next to godliness. Is it in the Bible? Some parents wish it was though when they're talking about their kids' rooms but no, it is absolutely not in Scripture nor is there any verse that would support that idea. It's just simply a thing people say. Alright, the borrower is slave to the lender. Is it in the Bible?

Yes, it's very much in the Bible. Yeah. Yes. It's in the Bible because Dave Ramsey says so. So, so I'm getting over here. Alright and finally, we'll go ahead and end it with this one.

Forgive and forget. Is it in the Bible? No, it is not in the Bible. Yes, we are commanded to give but there is no such commandment to forget So, anyway, so how'd you guys do? Pretty good? Alright, that honestly, I, I, I, I, I got that list.

I had chat GPT generate it for me. Sorry. Yeah. Yay, Chad GPT. and it was a good list. I actually I felt it was a little easy but there were a couple difficult ones in there, but there are some questions that, you know, are not quite so cut and dry. I mean, there's what we call gray areas, you know, does Scripture allow certain things or not? and we have those conversations but I didn't want to get too off on the side but the thing that the point of this was not to become a Bible trivia class even though that's really my heart of hearts that's why I wanted to turn it into. but the point that I'm trying to make is that guys, there's a lot of people out there that can sound biblical and not be biblical, okay?

There's a lot of people especially when you're doing this and you think you're doing God's work because a lot of your little thirty-second videos are all about Jesus in the Bible and God said, you know, you know, does anyone do that? Am I the only person that flips through videos and you feel a little good because like, man, most of my content is about church in the Bible. I must be doing pretty good algorithm but anyway, but there's a lot of people out there saying all sorts of stuff but just because it sounds right, doesn't necessarily make it right, okay? If you, if you hear something and it sounds right, you should still check it. If you hear something and it does that little thing, you should definitely check it and find out. because a lot of you know, and here's the real danger, alright?

Here's the real danger. A lot of times, they could say things that are true and use them in a false way, right? They'll quote Scripture and they'll say the Bible says and then you'll be like, okay, which verse And then you look it up. Yup. It says that and then the next thing out of their mouth is them taking that Scripture and making it mean something it was never intended to mean, okay? That's the real danger because you can.

I always tell people, when it comes to like arguing Bible points, you know, you can get into some of the harder conversations, you know, like, like, we'll say drinking alcohol. Is drinking alcohol a sin? I can argue both sides. I can show you in the Bible where it says you shouldn't. I can show you in the Bible where it says it's okay. You know, I can what what side do you want me to be on?

I can argue both, right? And so, but the thing is, is like, is it, you know, is it okay? When it comes into like end-time prophecy stuff, you know, timings of rapture and all that stuff. I can I can preach or defend two different viewpoints fully with Scripture and become fully convinced of both. Which one's right? I really don't.

You know, so that's why you have to be careful to make sure that when you read Scripture, one, you read it in context, right? Don't just pull verses out and also make sure that when you're reading Scripture, you rely very heavily on that old relationship you have with Jesus and the Holy Spirit and let him tell you what's right, okay? Cuz that's exactly what Jesus promised. He said, look, when I go, I'm going to be sending this helper and he's going to do a lot of things and one of those things is making sure that you understand the words that I said, alright? Anyway, so yeah, obviously pulling Scripture out of context is a bad thing, alright? We know it's a bad thing because in Matthew chapter four, we'll turn there.

## **EVEN SATAN QUOTED SCRIPTURE**

### **Matthew 4:5-7 (ESV)**

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.'"

Satan did it himself, okay? You guys remember the story of Jesus lost in the or not lost in the Windruit? Jesus wasn't lost in the moment. Guys, Jesus was wandering in the wilderness. He was not lost or at least there was no biblical indication to say that he was lost. I feel like he knew where he was going. but anyway, he was in the wilder meets up with Satan.

Satan feels like kick a guy while he's down. I'm going to try and get one over on Jesus. Watch this. Alright, so Satan, to get one on Jesus brings him up to a highest place and says, look, throw yourself off. Seems like a smart thing? Don't worry.

Satan knows the Bible. Now, here's the real scary thing. Satan knows the Bible probably better than you do. Okay? So, just just keep that one in your brain and be scared. Don't be scared but learn your Bible.

So, Satan knows Scripture. So, he's using the Scripture and then he says, for on their hands, they will bear you up. So, he's basically throwing two verses out of the same Psalm at Jesus saying, look, this is a good idea. The Bible says so, right? If you were just going to sit there and say, well, the Bible says it and he said it too. Must be right, right?

What does Jesus say? Jesus says to him, again, it is written, you shall not put your lord God to the test, alright? So, Satan quotes Psalm ninety-one verses eleven and twelve, Adam. Right? Saying, you should do this and Jesus answers back with Deuteronomy 6:16 and says, look, you don't put your God to the test, right? Both things are true.

He could have thrown himself off that. And he would've commanded his angels and his foot would not have struck the stone but there's other Scripture that says this as well. So, when you're like following Scripture, you need to make sure that you're following the whole thing, okay? You can't just pick out the parts you like and then ignore the ones you don't. Thank you. Yeah and we like to do that, right?

Have you ever been in the Bible and you're like reading along and you read something and like it's kind of a hard teaching. I kind of wish that wasn't in there. What do you mean? I gotta love and pray for my enemies. Like, what is that all about? No, I want to be mad at my enemies and I want them to get run over by a bus.

Like, right? Like, that's what I want. Why is that in the Bible? Like, you know what I mean? But you can't do that. You have to measure everything according to the whole Bible.

You know, and see, it's very common that people will take true things out of the Bible and then preach em as a false message. you see that a lot and I'm not going to pull up examples but you see that a lot in some these I'll say pastors of some churches where they try to get you to do or think things and they'll they'll quote Scripture. I mean, it'll be right there in their sermons. They'll flash it on the screen just like we did. Oh, it says, know the truth now but we'll flash it on the screen and then you'll read it with them and then they'll

say whatever they want to after that and you think because they use the Bible, they must be telling the truth, alright?

The Bereans listen to Paul, use a bunch of scriptures, and they went back and they read it for themselves. Now, in that case, they found out that it was true but you should always, always, always go back and check, okay? Go back and check. If something sounds a little weird or even if it sounds good, just go back and reaffirm in your heart. That's that's a good thing to do anyway. You know, always go back and check. and see and the thing is is, you know, knowing a Bible verse is not necessarily the same thing as knowing the Bible, okay?

You can know one verse like you know, we all got our favorite verse, right? Maybe, I don't know. I'm not going to have you recite it. You can raise your hand if you got one. Okay. We all got our favorite verse, right?

And that's great. You know, you might live your life by it and blah blah blah whatever and you might print it onto a board or embroider it into a pillow or you know, stick it on something that you stick on your toilet. You know, whatever you do with this verse is your your thing but the thing is is like loving that verse is not the same thing as loving the entire word, right? You can't just in on one verse because you can get yourself into trouble. so, it's not necessarily the same thing. So, how do we fix this, alright? How do we fix knowing the Bible, alright?

How do we fix not knowing the whole thing? How do you guys think we do it? Ruth, Ruder, yeah. Read it. Yeah. Read it.

You know. This is basically the word of God, right? How do we know the whole thing? You read it. You get into the word, right?

## GET INTO THE WORD

### Psalm 119:9–16 (ESV)

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

So, we're going to go ahead and turn over to Psalm 119 if you want to. It'll be on the screen. Don't worry if you don't. You can also pull out your rectangles. It's got it too. If you get good reception here.

You do, okay Yeah. actually ran into that the other day. I didn't update my Bible in the Bible app and I tried to look up a verse. Didn't have any reception. Couldn't read it. I'm like,

well, this stinks. Like, can you at least show me the previous version? anyway, Psalm 119 verse starting in verse nine.

By guarding it according to your word. How can without, with whole heart, I seek you, let me not wander from your commandments. So, you see like the Psalmist is asking a question and the answer usually has something to do with knowing about the word of God, right? We know that one, right? blessed are you, oh lord, teach me your statutes. With my lips, I declare all the rules of your mouth and in the way of your testimonies, I delight as much as in all riches. I will delight in statutes and I will not forget your word, right?

That's a great place to be, right? Yeah. I mean, the thing is, it's like, you know, and we'll we'll go off of off the notes a few minutes. like this is what we call this thing? A Bible, right? But what is it? It's the word of word of God, right?

Alright. So, these are God's words, right? It says in John one in the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God and he basically, we're talking about Jesus but Jesus is this word. He is the truth. He says, I am the way, the truth, this is truth, all of it's the same. This is literally God's words that I can hold in my hand.

We don't care. Right? I mean, because we don't, we don't, okay, maybe I'm the only one. You can stone me out in the parking lot afterwards. Maybe I'm the only one that cares more about what other people say or watching things on YouTube or you know, finding things other than reading the Bible to do and or to care about, right? But what I'm basically saying is that I would rather do anything else in the word than actually commune with the word or with God.

And so like and you're like saying, Dan, why why are you like trying to get into my screen time, you know? Like Say, yeah, my screen time's up because I've been reading my Bible so much, right? But the thing is, is like, you know, we would rather spend our times often on anything else but, right? And yeah, and see, the thing is, is that, you know, I think a lot of our lives, when we run into situations or hard times and we don't know what to do, a lot of that is the result of the decisions that we've made, okay? You know, like, I, I, I truly believe that God wants the best for us and he wants to work you through any situation, but I also believe that he wants to know you better than and for you to know him better than anyone else in the whole entire world and in that relationship is what's going to get you through the hard times.

Not the fact that God promised that he would but the fact that you guys are going to go through it together. Does that make sense? And how can you have a relationship with somebody if you never pick up the phone and talk to them? Right? We're not talking about prayer. I mean, you can talk to God all you want.

You can give em all the, you know, wish list you could want to. You say, God bless this, bless that, bless this, you know, you know, you can sit there and talk to God but I mean,

when are you going to let God start talking to you? Right Okay. Alright. That was not in my notes. That was all free.

So, how do you get into the word? Yeah. How do you get into the word, alright? So, here's where here's where I had to really restrain myself because you know, I like, I like teaching people how to do things. I'm a big, how-to guy. You know, one of my favorite things is YouTube because if you don't know how to do anything, someone on YouTube filmed it and you know, it's up out there, right?

I'll share this. We were looking. Marie's not in here so she can't back me up. and they're rolling out with this new feature. See I'm one of those crazy people that pays for YouTube so I don't have to watch any ads. Best 20 bucks a month you've ever spent in your life. And did you say amen?

Alright. Premium subscribers too. Yeah. Oh you wow. Wow. Alright.

Anyway. And so they're rolling out with this new feature and they always tested on the premium subscribers where they're trying to turn YouTube into a how to resource. Where you would go to tube and you would either ask it with your mouth or with typing which is so cumbersome now. but you would ask it any question you need to know how to do and it will find the right video and jump to the right part to show you the thing that you need to know. So you don't have to go through like the 20 minutes of like, yeah, I bought this truck 800 years ago and blah, blah, blah, and my dad had one and such and such and like, okay and you're like, skip, skip, skip, 14 minutes in, he finally shows you the part you needed to know like to do the thing.

So, they're like trying to catalog it. So, if you say, how do I remove a from a blah blah blah. They'll find the video and jump to the part where the guy's like, this is how you do it and it's like, that would be awesome, right? Raise your hand if you're all about that, right? They're working on it. Anyway, but see, man, now, I forgot what we're talking about.

But see, the thing is like, we love things like that, you know, like these how-to manuals and the ability to search things and stuff but see, the thing is, is that God has told us how to deal with almost every life situation in this world, right? And unfortunately, it doesn't have a algorithm that you can just, well, you can search for any verse in the Bible now but it doesn't have any algorithm that would instantly find the right verse for your life. You have to have that relationship. It has to be in your heart for you to instantly know these things and if you're going to try and get that word in your heart like Psalms one or 119 verse eleven says, I have stored your word in my heart.

How do you think that gets in there? Can you just like plug a cord in it and download it over? Not yet. No. No, you can't download it into your heart, right? So, how do you get the word into your heart?

Yeah, you read it. See, it's so easy. So easy, a child could do it. but yeah, you read it. So, how do you how do you read the word, right? Does everyone in this room know how to read? Alright, if you don't know how to read, please don't raise your hand.

I don't want to embarrass anyone but they do have audio Bibles. Yeah, you read it. You consume it. You listen to it. You know, I think an audio is one of the coolest things you can do like where when you're driving, you can like just get that word shoved in there but honestly guys, just 10, 15 minutes a day, you'll have this thing licked in a year or two, right? It's not that hard.

You can have the whole thing in and but yeah, just reading it. That's how you get it in there and see the thing is is like, I just don't want you to do this random thing like does anyone do the random flip? It's like, what's God going to show me today? Alright, this better be good. So then, brothers, we are debtors not to the flesh and we live according to the flesh. You know that, we don't, you don't want to just like just skip to a random verse, right?

And just act like that's what God wanted to tell you today. No, you don't want to do that. can God use it? He absolutely can but you know, the this Bible is not just a random collection of like little trinkets of truth. This is books, right? We like to say it's the Bible. It's one book but how many books are in this book?

Sixty-six. You guys went to Awana's Yeah, there's sixty-six books in this book, right? Written by how many different people? 40, yeah. Look at you guys. right. So, the thing is is like you should read it as such. Say, you know what?

This week, I'm going to read Philippians. Read the whole thing, right? I don't want to hate on the rest of the Bible. It's good, right? But yeah, Ephesians is good too but that's what I'm saying. Just find somewhere, start there, right? if you guys don't know where to start, I always say, you know, New Testament is great.

Old Testament is awesome. You know, like just find a place and start there. you know, and don't you don't have to like act like, okay. I don't know if you guys do this. When you start a Bible reading class, anyone ever started a Bible reading plan that you've downloaded and try to follow it each week, right? Every yeah, okay. I see a few hands.

How do you feel when you fall behind on that list? Terrible, awful, what'd you say? Convicted. Okay, well, you said it so weird. Yeah, convicted. Yeah, you feel awful, right?

You skip a week and stuff and then all of a sudden, you feel like you're a failure, right? Right? You've somehow failed at the greatest thing you could possibly do just because you didn't do it that day and so, I don't want you guys to just pick like a reading list and you know, try to follow it and like, as if that were the important thing. I just want you to say, God, I love you enough to know what you want to say to me. Show me where to start and let's do this. Treat the time as not like we're trying to cram words into your brain, treat it as a time that I'm just spending with God, right?

We're not to try and pass a test. We're just spending time with the one that loves us, right? Right. Okay. So, when you're reading your Bible, I'm trying to give you some practical Bible reading tips, okay? When you read a passage, these are the three questions you should always ask when you read anything in the Bible.

First, what does it say? Okay? Which is very different than what I think it says, okay? What does the Bible say? Literal, word-for-word reading, what does the Bible say? You should always be able to ask yourself that and try to read retain it.

Does anyone journal write things down. I tried. I failed. Okay, we all right. So, you could always do this. What does it say?

Write it down or say it out loud or whatever you gotta do, alright? Next, what does it teach me? Okay? Now, that we know what the Bible says, what is it teaching me? What did I learn? And now, then, third, the most important thing you could probably ask is, what do I do with it?

Okay? Cuz you could fill your brain with a lot of Bible knowledge. You can memorize the whole thing cover to cover and there are some people out there that have. I was watching video one time of this atheist that was arguing with Christians and he knew the Bible. Oh man, he knew the Bible. He could quote any verse for memory right then and I'm like, that's impressive that this guy that doesn't believe God at all has the whole Bible memorized.

He was a scholar. You know, he thought he was pretty pretty cool. no, he does not. He used the Bible as a tool to try and defeat Christianity. I don't know how he did it but he's was working on it but see, you can know the whole thing but you have to ask yourself, what am I doing with this information? What am I doing with the lessons that it teaches me? How am I changing my ruler to match this ruler, right?

What do I do with that? So, like when you read something and it's challenging, that's great. That gives you an opportunity to fix this thing, right? To make it match. whether you need to, you know, stretch it longer, get it in short, or whatever. Whatever you have to do to conform your life to God's word, that's what you should be doing, alright? So, now, you're saying, well, that's great.

I just read this really really long and confusing passage in Leviticus about cleaning red mold out of tents. I think I don't know. It was very confusing. What do I do with that? Well, I can't tell you what to do with that but I can tell you what you do, what you do when you don't understand stuff. Here's what you do.

You keep reading. Read the surrounding verses. What's going on at the time? Who's in the story? You know, what are they dealing with? All these things.

If you don't understand that, let's go to another translation, right? Maybe some translations are harder to understand. I love my ESV, Jason preaches from an NLT. You know, like different versions sound differently. They're saying the same thing but they have ways of saying it. Does that make sense?

Sometimes a different translation can help, alright? Another thing, follow cross references. You guys know what cross references are? Alright, when you're reading your Bible, you have these really cool tiny words in the middle. Have you ever seen these? And they're really neat because when you read a verse and then you go over to that verse in the middle, it'll show you other verses that have something to say about that verse, right?

It's pretty cool, right? You should learn how to use them. So, when you read something you don't understand, you go over to the cross it'll give you like two or three verses that will say, this has something to do with what you're just read, go read those verses and then you'll it'll either make sense or hopefully, bring up more questions that will cause you to go other places in the Bible. That's what Bible study is all about, alright? So, let's say you've done all that and you still don't understand. What do you do after that?

Yeah, praying is something you should have been doing since the beginning but yeah, I'll give you a pray. But yeah, asking someone, alright? It is not a bad thing to read something in the Bible and go to another Christian and say, hey, I read this thing. I don't understand it. Can you help me? Cuz one of two things is going to happen, right?

Either they're going to have already read this and figured it out and try to tell you what they found and it's going to be very helpful or you're going to ask them and they're going to be like, I don't know. And now, you got a Bible study partner, right? Now, you're both trying to find this answer and guess what? It's it just gets greater for after that, alright? And then after that, there's honestly, we live in a wonderful age where we have so many tools at our disposal. The internet is full of em, right?

You should be using Bible study tools all the time to try and understand this word, right? And that's really on the practical side but yes, you should be praying to learn about the word but and that's all that. Alright. You guys have any questions about reading your Bible or learning how to do it? Who's going to have two books memorize by next week. Whole books Did you raise your hand?

Lexi said she's going to be here ready to recite Ephesians. Jude. Alright, I'll take it. Alright. Anyway, alright. We're going to keep going.

Alright, we're we're doing this. Alright. So, why do we need to learn this word, right? Why do we need to learn it? What benefit is it to me? I mean, you know, yes, I shouldn't measure myself with false rulers.

Yes, I love God enough to read his word and want to commune with him but why is the word so beneficial for that? We're going to go to second Timothy chapter thirteen verse

sixteen. I'm just going to read off my paper. You guys understand what my Bible does. Alright. Second Timothy chapter thirteen verse sixteen through seventeen.

## THE WORD CORRECTS US

### 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

So, why do I want to know the word? Paul here says it pretty plainly. First of all, this is God's word. Scripture is God breathed. This came straight from God, okay? You could trust it but what is it good for?

Teaching, alright? Teaching. This word is going to help you grow in knowledge okay? And I, I, I, restrained myself because there's a lot of great verses that talk about the knowledge of God and I used to, I, it used to be my thing that I used to jump on all the time that people should know more about God because it's a great way to get a closer relationship with him. It's not about learning facts. It's about knowing someone intimately.

That makes sense? Alright, when you love somebody, you want to know everything about them. When you find that one special person in your life, you want to know what their favorite food is, what their favorite color is. You want to know what brand of perfume they wear. You want to know every about them, right? Yeah.

Why why should God be any different? Anyway, Scripture teaches us. It helps us grow in knowledge. It also reproves us. You guys know what reproof is? Well, it literally says correction on the next thing so it can't mean that.

But I thought that same thing though. So, I'm not trying to point you out. I thought reproof meant correction as well. It's actually a little bit I don't want to say worse, huh? Like what? Reread now, reproof is like when it yells at you.

Tells you're wrong. Like, if you messed up, the Bible will tell you when you're wrong, okay? If you thought something and the Bible says something different, that's reproof. It's basically said, you're wrong. Okay, you're wrong, alright? It's okay to be wrong when you're reading the Bible as long as you end up changing your ruler to match that ruler, right?

Now, when you find out you're wrong, then what do you do? You correct it. That's the, yeah, you gotta know you're wrong before we can correct it. See, the Bible sets us on the right path. You're going down the wrong path. You just learned that by reading this Bible and now, we're correcting ourselves to the right path and then, finally, it says, Scripture is useful for training, right?

Helps us get better. Why do you train? To get better, right? If I said I was going to run a race, you know, I ran a half marathon once guys. I could tell you all about it but I'm just going to just let you sit in the that I ran a half marathon and don't ever forget it because I won't. Now, never never run one again but no, but you have to you in order to do stuff, you have to train, right?

You have to get better. You don't just wake up one day and say, I'm going to go do this thing, right? If I went out there and try to run a half marathon right now, I could tell you, you picked me up about mile four point two. I will be dead on the side of the road and that is if I was willing to try and finish. Honestly, I would probably give up about mile one and a half and say This is, I'm done. I'd call you and say, come pick me up.

Right. So, you train to get better, right? You have to keep at it. You know, that 10 or 15 minutes a day. You train with it every day, alright? How do you bench press 400 pounds?

You do train in a week? Yeah. Yeah, you train. You get a little bit better. You work at it every day. You get it better and better each day, right?

And but that's what that's what Scripture four is for and then and then in verse seventeen, it says that the man of God may be complete, alright? So, Paul here is saying, look, if you're wanting to just completely disregard Scripture and disregard this book, I don't care how good of a Christian you are and how many people you feed and how many people you help or how cool you are, friends you have but if you don't have this in here, then you're incomplete I don't care how good of a person you are or whatever. You can do a lot of great things without having this Bible in your heart but you either one doing it for the wrong reasons or you're just not doing it correctly in the first place, alright?

So, very very important. Okay. So, remember, when you when you read Scripture, the whole point is that we're trying to change this into this, right? Change our ruler into thing and you weren't here last week, right? You're looking at me crazy. This is a wrong ruler.

It doesn't. No, no, no. It doesn't actually have the correct measurements. So, yeah, I made it myself. It measures this table at 25 inches and it was what, 23 and 7/8 we found out? Yeah.

So, this is a bad ruler. For the people are like, why is he what'd you say about me? Alright. Anyway, I feel like you guys are doing a good job. I'm closing. Oh, there he is.

I tell you, these transitions get harder and harder every week to go from talking about the things I want to and trying to close in a way that makes it impactful. But you know, like I said, last week, we looked at, you know, which ruler was correct and we determined that, you know, if God is true then this must be, right? Because this is God's word. so, we know that this is the right ruler and then this week, we're looking at, you know, asking ourselves like, well, how well do I actually know this ruler? because see, here's the thing guys. You know, we live in a world and it is messy and there are people in it which you know, you could either love or hate. but there's people in it, right?

And people are messy. People got problems. People got questions. they have needs and this book, this word of God, this truth has the answers to a lot of it, a lot of it and see, the thing is, is that, you know, we're we're Christians. We're aliens in this world and we're not supposed to call this place our home, right? We're here for a reason, right? We're here to help people.

We're here to get people through hardships. We're here to tell people what God says and this is the thing that we're using to do it and all the while, you know, we're basically you know, if you're neglecting this book, you're neglecting the reason that we're here. Likewise, if you're still on your journey and you're like going through I guess your Christian growth journey. There's a lot of people will say a lot of things, right? They'll come up to you and say, well, the Bible says, you know, blah, blah, blah, or you know, I you know, God would never do such and such, right? And people are always making these these statements.

You know, saying that, you know, well, Jesus, if you was here, he wouldn't treat people that way or you know, then they'll sometimes turn it on you and say, well, did God actually say that? You know, and if you don't know this thing, what are you going to say? You know, and see the thing is, is that, you know, I tried not to be all doom and gloom and you know, talk about how terrible the world is and how full of devils and Satan and demons and all that stuff but the thing is guys is that we are sheep in a wolf's world right? There is a, yeah, we are, we are sheep in a wolf's world and we need someone to one, take care of us, you know, God's there for that but the thing is, is like, you know, this whole world is hostile towards what we believe, alright?

And like I said, I try to I try to exercise extreme restraint and like playing news article and clip and all that stuff one after the other because I don't want to I don't want to get into the habit of trying to bring you guys down and show you how awful the world is and how much it hates God and how it's your job to defend or you know, to know what's true so that when the enemy comes at you, you can defend yourself. I mean, Jason was up here and he preached. What? Six, eight weeks, right? On the armor of God. That was a long time talking about being ready to defend yourself in when the world comes at you and you know, I've I've had lots of conversations about you know, information and truth, you know, because whenever God lays something on your heart, it just naturally comes out and conversation but the world is so I say hostile.

The world is so it is evil but this the world is so far removed from the truth. That's what we'll say. It's so far removed to the truth that they will present a world then they'll tell you this is what you should know and this is what you should be. This is how you should live your life. This is how you need to respect this person. This is how you have to do all the things, right?

And they've concocted this new reality that is contrary to what this is. Right? And if we're only listening to the world, we're eventually going to believe it, okay? you can look at

through time like how little how little by little the world has like gained ground in certain aspects of our Christian culture. They've kept, you know, you know, putting all these little thoughts in there and like stuff like that and we haven't been fighting back and we've just been giving up ground and like when we go to read our Bible, and we're like, whoa. How does that it with this. I mean, I didn't change, right?

Well, you did, alright? And the only way you know is to go back to the standard to see by how much, right? So, and you know, I'm not trying to get you guys to, you know, come up to the altar and say, oh, I'm going to read my Bible. 90 minutes a day and you know, we're going to, you know, do this thing, you know, like, but I do want you guys to like look at yourself and ask God, you know, like, how much of your world word do I actually know and more importantly, how much of your word do I actually apply to my life? You know, because it's one thing to know it, it's another thing to know it. In a true biblical sense. So, guys, as you sit there, just ask God, God, what do you want from me?

What do you want to show me? What are you trying to tell me right now? And I'm telling you, the answer, it's it's all here, okay? So, let's pray.