

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green and yellow, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, some solid and some semi-transparent, arranged in a way that suggests movement and depth.

Core Doctrines Series: Essential #1: **The Bible**

Mosaic Church's Core Doctrines

- 1) The Bible
- 2) God
- 3) Jesus Christ
- 4) Holy Spirit
- 5) Human Beings
- 6) Salvation
- 7) the Church

Mosaic Church's Core Doctrines

The Bible:

The Bible is God's Word to us. Human authors, under the supernatural guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote it. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because God inspires it, it is the truth without error. (from our church website)

Main Points for this sermon:

- ▶ Tackling the 4 statements
- ▶ The importance of good interpretation of Scripture (hermeneutics) & a few key strategies
- ▶ Some concluding encouragements and exhortations about engaging with God's Word

Some Bible Facts

- ▶ 66 books and letters - 39 in OT and 27 in the NT;
- ▶ Written over a span of 1,500 years
- ▶ Best selling book for 1500 years, ~5-7 billion Bibles published
- ▶ On average, 85 percent of U.S. households own a Bible; the average number of Bibles per household is 4.3.
- ▶ Oldest complete Christian Bible - Codex Sinaiticus - dates to the 4th century

Some discouraging Bible data

- ▶ 36% of Americans read the Bible less than once a year or never
- ▶ In 2021, 50% of Americans read the Bible 3-4 times a year or more; in 2022 that dropped 11 points to 39%
- ▶ Only 10% of Americans read their Bible daily, down 4 percentage points (or 29%) during the pandemic
- ▶ Fewer than 10% of Generation Z youth say they're committed to reading the Bible regularly

1. The Bible is God's Word to us.

Isaiah 55:11 “So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” God’s word is efficacious,

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Matt. 4:4 “Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

1 Pet. 1:25 But the word of the Lord endures forever. And this is the word that was preached to you.

John 5:39 “You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me.”

2. Human authors, under the supernatural guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote it.

II Timothy 3:15-17: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Peter 1:21 “...for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

3. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living.

Psalm 119:160 The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

I Thes. 2:13 “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.”

4. Because God inspires it, it is the truth without error (in its original manuscripts).

Psalm 12:6 “And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.”

John 17:17 “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

7 Principles for rightly interpreting Scripture (good hermeneutics)

1. Interpretation must be based on the author's intention of meaning and not the reader.
2. Interpretations must be done in the context of the passage.
3. Interpret the Bible literally allowing for normal use of figurative language.
4. Use the Bible to help interpret itself.

7 Principles for rightly interpreting Scripture (good hermeneutics)

5. Interpretation must be distinguished from application.
6. Be sensitive to distinctions between Israel and the church and Old Covenant and New Covenant eras/requirements.
7. Be sensitive to the type of biblical literature you are reading (law, narrative, wisdom, poetry, gospel, parable, epistle, and apocalyptic).



FEAR
OF
MISSING
OUT

Some encouragements/exhortations about God's word

Spend time regularly in God's word

- ▶ Let God's truth wash over and into you as you read Scripture so that you are grounded in His abiding truth of who He is, and who you are to Him.
- ▶ Let his presence that is so evident as you read His Word engulf you so that you know more deeply He is with and for you.
- ▶ Let His promises encourage your heart and remind you whom your hope is in.
- ▶ As you meditate on His Word, let the Holy Spirit guide and instruct your spirit in becoming more submissive and responsive to the ways He is calling you to grow & change.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Which of the four statements re: the Bible to do you most resonate with and what might be more challenging for you?
2. Which hermeneutic principles do you apply most naturally when reading Scripture? Which might need more practice?
3. Since God's word is a "light unto our path" and useful "for training in righteousness", what helps you to stay rooted in God's word?

The Bible is God's Word to us. Human authors, under the supernatural guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote it. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because God inspires it, it is the truth without error.