

Abide – The Word of God

1/31/21

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Sunday AM

What's this I'm holding in my hand? Yes, it's a Bible? God's holy Word. His love letter to you/me? Question is, how do we view/cherish this book that's more than a book? How do we treat/respond to it?

Many yrs ago, I stumbled across a video of a group of believers in an underground church in China receiving a Bible for the first time – it's a video I'll never forget b/c it blessed me so much. **Watch this!**

What is this to you? Really! Is it just a book or is it a *lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path*? Is it God's inspired truth or a book of fables/fairytales?

Thru-out Scripture we're invited to keep His Word central to our lives – so we'll be *like a tree planted by streams of water which yields fruit in due season...*

I wonder though, how much time have we invested this week reading, studying, hearing, or considering God's Word? And how much has God's Word gotten into us?

DYK – recent stats say that only **9%** of Americans now read the Bible daily while **35%** of Americans say they never read it? Yet... people who read the Bible at least **4x** a week are less likely to lie, cheat, steal, engage in immoral activity, and feel lonely. They're more likely to be happy, healthy, and respectful.

Simply put – it appears the more time you spend in God's Word, the more God's Word gets into you to transform your life for your good and God's glory.

If you're just joining us, we're in a series on what it means to **abide** Christ; that is, what it means to walk in intimacy w/ our Creator.

In John 15, Jesus, "*I am the vine, you are the branches. If anyone abides in Me, and I in them, they will bear much fruit, but apart from Me you can do nothing.*"

Jesus wasn't concerned w/ producing fruit, He was focused on our connection w/ Him and on each of us experiencing intimacy w/ Him. In fact, thru-out the Bible, we learn God has given us a number of mediums/disciplines to assist us in drawing close w/ Him – a daily time of solitude, private/public worship – today we're going to look at the wonderful gift of His holy Word – the Bible.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living so the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

I The **AUTHOR** of Scripture

*All Scripture is **inspired** by God...*

inspired (*theopneustos*) breathed **out** by God – meaning the bible is the result of God speaking.

It's called the **doctrine of inspiration** – in a nutshell, this teaching is that human authors/editors of the Bible were led by or influenced by God to pen what they wrote. They were not stripped of their personalities or identity, but were guided by God in every way.

The early church agreed w/ rabbinical teaching that the H.S. rested on/in the prophets (and apostles) to enable God to speak in/thru these people so that their words didn't come from themselves but from God's mouth.

You must understand no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the H.S. 2 Pt. 1:20-21

B/c Scripture is inspired/authored by God; it requires the H.S. to give revelation (*rhema*) for it to be fully understood. **IOW** – we might be able to comprehend the concepts in Scriptures, but to apprehend it requires the H.S.'s intervention. **1 Corinthians 2:10** explains:

It is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" – the things God has prepared for those who love him – these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit w/in them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received isn't the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities w/ Spirit-taught words. The person w/out the Spirit doesn't accept the things that come from the H.S. but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them b/c they're discerned only through the Spirit. The person w/ the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person isn't subject to merely human judgments, for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

II The APPEAL of Scripture

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful...

profitable (*ophelimos*) includes the idea of being sufficient, able, beneficial. God's Word is sufficient to meet us at the point of our need and direct us to **knowing** God, **growing** in God, and **showing** God.

Psalms 19 helps us to see the usefulness of Scripture:

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They're more precious than gold, than much pure gold; and sweeter than honey from the comb. Psalms 19:7-11

A PERFECT – Reviving the Soul

The Bible is perfect in power/purpose – bringing about the redemption of man.

perfect – complete; nothing lacking. The Bible gives us a complete scheme of God's grace to regenerate, restore, and revive a sinner to a saint.

Perfect in **POWER** to change lives; and perfect in **PURPOSE** fulfilling God's redemptive plan.

B TRUSTWORTHY

trustworthy – able to be authenticated. Scripture is **immutable** in intent, **reliable** in content and **verifiable** by reason, history, archeology, and prophecy.

Meaning – the Bible can handle any/all scrutiny. It'll stand the test of time. Its evidence will confound the educated and make wise those who trust in faith.

C **RIGHT** – Giving Joy to the Heart

right – straight as opposed to crooked; God's Word gives us everything we need for life/godliness teaching us what is right, moral, and true.

D **RADIANT** – Giving Light to the Eyes

radiant – illuminating; light piercing darkness. God's Word penetrates the darkness of sin revealing truth w/out distortion.

E **PURE** – Enduring Forever

pure – free of harshness; contains no harm. God's Word isn't just right, it's pure and it will never cause or allow a person to sin. There is no mixture of error to defile it. There is no stain to pollute it – in is unadulterated and undiluted truth.

F **SURE** – Altogether Righteous

sure – Solid in footing – the Bible is accurate/correct, able to rightly evaluate/assess the heart. It establishes parameters for life and warns against untruth, temptation, and the presence of evil.

G **DESIREABLE** – More Precious

The Bible is priceless/delightful, able to quench the hunger and thirst of any soul.

III The **AIM** of Scripture

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living...

A Teaching the Truth – **DOCTRINE**

teaching (*didaskalia*) refers to truth that's able to **convince/convert**. It's truth to show us who to follow and the right path to walk on.

B Rebuking Error – **REPROOF**

reproof (*elegmos*) is truth to **confront/convict** us by refuting error and by reprimanding us when we turn from God's way.

C Challenging Faults – **CORRECTION**

correction (*epanorthosis*) is truth to **cure/change** us. God's Word is able to repair our faults showing us how to get back on track w/God.

D Instruction for Living – **TRAINING**

training (*paideia*) is truth to **coach/commission** us to walk in intimacy w/ God. God's Word is able to restore and teach us how to stay on God's path.

The idea is God's Word, from the moment we begin to study and rightly divide it, is able to completely and continually furnish us w/ everything we need for life and godliness. It's not by human effort that we're empowered, but by the power of His Word and H.S. who is in us who articulates and enables us to walk by faith on the promise of God's Truth.

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness thru our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Thru these he has given us his great and precious promises, so that thru them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 2

Peter 1:3-4

IV The **ADVANTAGE** of Scripture

...that the person who serves God may be fully qualified/equipped to do every kind of good deed.

equipped (*exartismenos*) fully furnished and outfitted

God has given us His Word so that under the leading of the H.S. we might live out what we believe and live for a Divine initiative greater than ourselves.

W/ this in mind, let me speak to the (4) basic disciplines needed to get God's Word into our lives:

- **READ** the Word
- **HEAR** the Word
- **STUDY** the Word
- **MEMORIZE** the Word

The best way to know God, to hear His voice so that you can follow Him is thru prayerful, contemplative time in His Word. Love His Word and you will learn to love God as well. But always remember, loving and relating to God is what we're really after.

In college, I received a Ryrie Study Bible that I loved. I committed myself to reading it every day. It marks one of the greatest times of growth in my life. But a funny thing happened one day when I had misplaced that Bible, I discovered I was more in love w/ God's Word than I was w/ the God of the Word. I learned a valuable lesson. God wants me to love His Word, but He is more concerned that I am in love w/ Him alone.