



Reading the Bible Like Jesus

Luke 24:27, 32

Have you noticed there are some things people tend to either love or hate? This observation is also true of the Bible: people love it or loathe it.

Billions of people love the Bible. It is the most printed, read, and reread book in history. Yet as loved as it is, it is also hated by many:

- Thomas Paine, “The Age of Reason” - *It would be more consistent that we called the Bible the word of a demon, than the word of God.*

- Bertrand Russell, “Why I Am Not a Christian” - *The Bible is full of immoral teachings.*
- Richard Dawkins, “The God Delusion” - *The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction.*

It's worth asking: *How can the same book inspire devotion in some and disgust in others?* I suggest that when we dig beneath reasons for the disgust, we find that the Bible hasn't been read well, and the comments of those who've not read the Bible well should prod us to read it well!

We read the Bible well when we read it as Jesus did. When Jesus opened the Scriptures to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus taught them [and us!] *how* to read the Bible.

Again, we are reminded of two important truths:

- Verse 27: All the Scriptures point to Jesus.
- Verse 32: We meet with Jesus through the Scriptures.

Here's one simple way to seek Christ in the pages of Scripture:

C.H.R.I.S.T.

Seeing Christ in the Pages of Scripture

Letter	Question	Connection to Christ
C — Character of God	<i>What does this passage reveal about Who God is and how He relates to His people through His covenant with them?</i>	Christ is the full revelation of God's character and the Mediator of the New Covenant (John 1:18; Heb. 8:6).
H — Human Condition	<i>What does this text show about humanity's</i>	Christ heals, restores, and fulfills

	<i>sin, needs, brokenness, or longings?</i>	what we lack.
R — Redemption Storyline	<i>How does the passage move the story of redemption forward?</i>	All Scripture moves toward Christ, the climax of redemption.
I — Incomplete Patterns	<i>Is there a role, symbol, type, or theme here that is good but incomplete?</i>	Christ is the fulfillment of every biblical pattern and shadow.
S — Salvation Provided	<i>What hope, warning, or invitation does the passage present?</i>	Christ is the way of life; rejecting Him leads to death.

T — Transformation in Christ	<i>How does this passage call the believer to respond?</i>	Christ not only saves but transforms us by His Spirit.
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Let me offer a little challenge: Take a passage of the Bible this week and apply the CHRIST acronym to it. Better yet, do this with someone else! There is a handout in the back to help with this. May we read the Bible, discovering how a text fits into God's KINGDOM story and how it points us to Christ, may our hearts too burn within us!