



Foundations of Faith – The Holy Scriptures

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July 14, 2024

From Nazarene.org:

*“Christian discipleship is a way of life. It is the process of learning how God would have us live in the world. As we learn to **live in obedience to the Word of God**, in submission to the disciplines of the faith, and in accountability to one another, we begin to understand the true joy of the disciplined life and the Christian meaning of freedom.”*

You should be concerned when:

- There is no transformation from your reading
- The Scriptures are no longer precious to you

Psalm 119:72, NET

“The law you have revealed is more important to me than thousands of pieces of gold and silver.”

- You tie it to others failed examples – This is personal to you
- You lose your desperation (**I Samuel 3:21; John 17:13,17,20; Romans 10:17**)

What to expect?

- You will be shocked
 - The virgin Mary was shocked

Luke 1:34, NET

“Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I have not been intimate with a man?” The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God.”

- You will be confused – Not chronological, alphabetical, numerical
- You will not find all the answers you are looking for. *“Scripture is comprehensive, not exhaustive.”*
- You may grow discouraged

Why read? Reading the Bible:

- Leads us into salvation (**I Timothy 4:16; Romans 10:15-17; II Timothy 4:2**)
 - We are not saved by our Bible reading

John 5:39-40, NET

"You study the scriptures thoroughly because you think in them you possess eternal life, and it is these same scriptures that testify about me, but you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life."

- The Bible *"inerrantly reveals the will of God concerning us in all things necessary to our salvation."* (Article of Faith, IV)
- Contests Satan's temptations (**Genesis 3:1; Ephesians 6:17; John 8:32,44; I John 2:14**)
- Grows you in grace and peace (**II Peter 1:2**)
- Protects us from wrong beliefs, bad theology and false teachers (**Hebrews 13:9; Ephesians 4:13-14; Galatians 1:6-9**)
- Hope for eternity

How to read?

- Find a translation you can understand
- Note taking cultivates careful Bible reading

GALATIANS 1:11

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Paul Called by God

¹¹For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. ¹²For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, ¹⁶was pleased to reveal his Son to me in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

¹⁸Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰(In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) ²¹Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²²And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴And they glorified God because of me.

Paul Accepted by the Apostles

²Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. ²I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim

SEE NOTE ON GALATIANS 1:11

26 June 2024

Paul is making it clear + here by offering a defense that the gospel he preached was "NOT man's gospel" (11). Verse 12 is reminiscent of verse 1 language. WE SEE THE DANGER + ERROR IN FOLLOWING THE TRADITIONS OF MAN (14). THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE WHEN THOSE TRADITIONS ARE CONTRARY TO THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. "... preach Him among the Gentiles" (16) - this is the CRUX of the book of Ephesians; to preach to the Gentile (uncircumcised). "James, the Lord's brother" (19) is listed as an Apostle. I WONDER WHAT PAUL DID DURING THE INTERVENING TIME IN ARABIA (17) FOR THREE YEARS (18); IN JERUSALEM FOR FIFTEEN DAYS (19); AND FOURTEEN YEARS (2:1). THESE MARKERS OF TIME AMOUNT TO ~~THIRTY SEVEN YEARS~~ SEVENTEEN YEARS, NEARLY TWO DECADES?

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THE POWER OF PERSONAL REPUTATION IS SHOWN HERE. PAUL ADMITS HE WAS NOT KNOWN PERSONALLY TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CHURCH IN JUDEA (22) AND THAT THE CHURCH THERE HAD ONLY HEARD OF PAUL'S CONVERSION (23). NOTWITHSTANDING THE NEWS OF THE CONVERSION SERVED TO GLORIFY GOD (24). WHAT DOES MY REPUTATION SAY TO THOSE WHOM I HAVE NOT MET BUT HAVE HEARD OF ME?

- Slow down and read Scripture
- Read for the drama; read for the white space
- IOUS Prayer

Incline heart

Psalm 119:36, ESV

“Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!”

Open eyes

Psalm 119:18, ESV

“Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”

Unite my heart

Psalm 86:11, ESV

“Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.”

Satisfy my soul

Psalm 90:14, ESV

“Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.”