

LESSON TWO: The Word of God

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someone.

The Way of Discipleship Tutorials **by Robert Cox**

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STUDY #2 – THE WORD OF GOD

Study Goals:

- To help you student understand that the Bible is from God (inspired) and is not just some old book (2 Timothy 3:16a, 2 Peter 1:19-21).
- To show the Bible's purpose, that it is “useful” and relevant to their life and problems (2 Timothy 3:15-17, Hebrews 4:12,13).
- To help the student see the result of ignoring, rejecting, or replacing it with human tradition (John 12:47-50, 1 Timothy 4:16).
- To create a commitment to knowing and obeying the word of God (James 1:22-25, Acts 17:10-12).

READ:

[2 Timothy 3:15-17](#)

“...from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3 v. 15 -----

? How does this passage say that Timothy was able to know about his salvation?

NOTE: The Bible says that by knowing the scriptures Timothy could know about his salvation. Ones relationship with God must be based on objective truth (“the holy scriptures”), not subjective opinion (ones personal feelings). John says basically the same thing in the following verse.

MENTION:

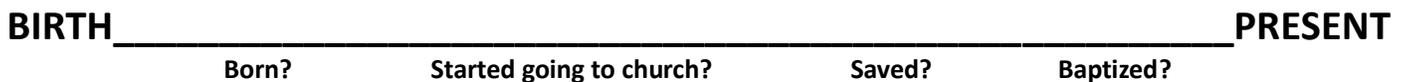
[1 John 5:13](#)

"I am writing this to you so that you may know that you have eternal life..."

- ? **Are you certain that you and God are "OK"** (If you died today you would go to heaven)?
- ? **What reason would you give for your answer?**
- ? **Is your answer based more on how you feel (emotion), or what God's word says (Scripture)?**

CHART THEIR SPIRITUAL TIMELINE

ILLUSTRATE: Get out a piece of paper and draw a straight line on it. At the beginning of the line write "birth" and at the end write "present". Ask your student to share a brief overview of their spiritual journey with you (Did they grow up attending church? How old were they? Did they fall away - when and what happened? Did they ever give their lives over to Jesus and when? What happened after? Simply chart major life experiences relevant to where they are today - this will help you get to know them and where they are presently). This timeline will be used later to compare biblical conversion with your student's experience. Completing it now provides an unbiased record of your student's spiritual journey. Let your friend know that you are doing the time line so that they can compare their life and experience with what the scriptures teach about becoming and being a Christian. If the comparison matches up, great! If not, they can make adjustments that better correspond with God's word.



2 Timothy 3 v. 16 -----

NOTE: Knowing what something is designed to do is essential to it being useful. That's why all cars, stereos, computers, etc. come with instruction manuals. The Bible is God's instruction manual to man. Paul tells Timothy (and you and I) what the bible is to be used for. It might be helpful to check

out the New Living Translation's uncomplicated and concise take on 2 Timothy 3:16.

- **The Bible is “useful” (good) for...**

1. **Teaching - What do you think this means?**

- Providing new information.

2. **Rebuking - What does this mean?**

- Pointing out errors in what I believe or do.

3. **Correcting - What do you think this means?**

- Showing me how to correct my errors, putting me on the right path, to align me with truth.

4. **Training in righteousness - What does this mean?**

- Provides a “how to” guide for life - tells me what honors God and what dishonors him.

NOTE: Inform your student to expect one or more of these to occur during this Bible study. Encourage them to not freak out but to allow God's word to do what it is intended it to.

2 Timothy 3 v. 17 -----

? God made the Bible “useful for” these four things for a reason. What do you think He wants to happen as a result of our study?

- "... so that the man of God may be *thoroughly* equipped for every good work" - God wants me to be the person he created me to be so that I can be completely prepared to do his work in the world.

MENTION (The Message paraphrase says it this way):

2 Timothy 3:17 (The Message Paraphrase)

“Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.”

NOTE: Dream! It’s never too early to cast a vision of what God wants to do with your student. He wants to save them and He wants to set them apart, equipped to serve and save others. Salvation is only the beginning! He has great plans for their life!

READ:

1 Timothy 4:16

"Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

? **Which do you think Paul means when he says “watch your life”?**

- “Keep a close watch on how you live.” (NLT)

? **Which do you think Paul means when he says “watch your doctrine”?**

- "...and on your teaching.” (NLT)

? **Which do you think is more important: life or doctrine; which does the Apostle Paul seem to emphasize?**

NOTE: That's a trick question: BOTH ARE ESSENTIAL! Watching both “life” (how you live) **and** “doctrine” (what you believe and teach) is essential if you want to be saved yourself and used by God to save others.

- Let you student know that the rest of the study will look at two major concerns of God, Helping you know what is right and helping you do what is right.

READ:

Mark 7:5-9, 13

The Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?"⁶ He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."⁷ They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men."⁹ And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! ...¹³ Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

? What happens if we allow tradition to supersede truth?

- (Our worship to God becomes worthless)

? How could this happen?

? What can be done to make sure it doesn't happen?

READ:

2 Peter 3:15-16

"Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.¹⁶ He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction."

? What does it mean to "distort" something?

? What does Peter say is the result of distorting the scriptures?

Note: One can distort "hard" and easy passages ("...the other scriptures")!

READ:

James 1:22-25

“...humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. ²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.”

James 1 v. 21 -----

? What does being humble have to do with your studying the Bible and being saved?

- Being humble allows me to admit my faults so that I can get help.

? Is just reading the word of God enough to insure that a person will be blessed?

- The word of God can bless me if I will allow it to penetrate and change me. The next verse stresses this.

James 1 v. 22 -----

? How could reading, listening or studying the Bible cause one to be deceived?

- It can fool us into thinking that knowing what is right is the same as doing what is right.

James 1 vs. 23, 24 -----

NOTE: The imagery of “looking into a mirror and doing nothing” illustrates nicely the uselessness of hearing the word of God but doing nothing with it. Who would get out of bed, look in a mirror, see their less-than-impressive appearance and go to work without making changes. Information with out application is useless!

? What's the point of looking in a mirror?

? What's the point of looking in the mirror of God's word?

- To see the areas that need addressing and to make the necessary changes

James 1 v. 25 -----

? How can you make sure you get good stuff (you are blessed) from your time in the Word?

- By studying seriously and by “doing what it says.”

READ:

[Matthew 7:24-27](#)

“Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

? What things do the wise man and the foolish man share in common in this passage? Who heard the words of Jesus?

- They both heard the words of Jesus.

? What did the men do differently?

- The wise man did what Jesus said - the foolish man did not. Both heard the words of Jesus, but only the wise man applied them.

NOTE: The difference in salvation and destruction is trusting enough to obey. God gives me His word so that I can be protected and secure, both of which require me hear AND obey - not simply hear.

READ:

Hebrews 4:12-13

¹² "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

Hebrews 4 v. 12 -----

? What does the description "living and active" mean?

- It's relevant to today's life and problems.

NOTE: The Bible is not like an out of date medical or science book. Its message remains pertinent to today's problems. People tend to think of their problems as new and exceptional. In reality all "modern problems" are directly or indirectly dealt with in the Bible. The word of God has the answers!

? This passage says that the word of God is sharp and cutting.

? How do you normally feel about being cut?

ILLUSTRATE: If I were to pull out a hunting knife and ask, "Would you let me make a 9 inch, really deep cut in your chest?" you would (should) say "no way!" and then run. However, your response would (should) be different if I were your trusted, skilled, respected doctor, and came to you in the hospital and said, "Your arteries are blocked and you need a bypass. It will be a painful surgery but if we do it, you will live; if we don't, you will die. Can I do the surgery? I will need to make a 9 inch cut in your chest.." You still wouldn't like it, but you would allow it. "Purpose determines Permission!"

- God is interested in changing your inside, not your outside. He is a cardiologist, not a cosmetic surgeon, and all cardiologists have to cut their patients.

? What will happen if you refuse to be open to God and refuse to allow His word to cut you?

- God will not be able to help you because you refuse to let Him.
- Much like a person who refuses to have surgery, you will die.

Hebrews 4 v.13 -----

? The Bible pictures God as a judge. What standard do you think he will use to judge you?

- Your feelings? The opinion of your mom, dad, friends, or coworkers? Other religious traditions?
- The next passage we will look at reveals what God's standard will be.

READ:

[John 12:47-48](#)

⁴⁷ “As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. ⁴⁸ There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.”

NOTE: During Jesus' 33 years on earth his purpose was not to pronounce judgment but to offer salvation. There will be a time when each of us will be judged as saved or condemned. Jesus said the “word He spoke” would be the ultimate and final standard.

? How can you make sure to avoid being condemned?

- Accept God's word as your standard or how to live and what to believe.

CLOSE

End each study with a commitment and challenge.

READ:

Acts 17:12-13

“Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. ¹² Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.”

Commitment: I commit to allow the word of God to be the only authority regarding how I will live and what I will believe.

Challenge: Be like the Bereans!

1. Eager to study.
2. Careful to check the accuracy of the message.
3. Quick to obey any newly discovered truth.

