

Lesson 5 – How to Study the Bible
How Verbal Inspiration Teaches Us How to Interpret the Bible
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Introduction: Is the Bible a perfect work from a perfect God?

A. The answer you give to this question will determine how you handle the scriptures.

(1 Thess 2:13)

1. Almost all denominations and most certainly their seminaries have rejected the verbal inspiration of the scriptures.
2. Consider this 1982 survey questions and answers of 10,000 American clergymen.
 - a. Is the Bible the inspired, inerrant Word of God? Over 80% of ministers said "no." 67% of American Baptists said "No." 82% of Presbyterians said "No." 87% of Methodists said "No." 95% of Episcopalians said "No."
 - b. Was Jesus born of a virgin? Over 50% of ministers said "no." The following ministers do not believe in the virgin birth: American Lutherans 19%, American Baptists 34%, Episcopalians 44%, Presbyterians 49%, Methodists 60%.
 - c. Was Jesus the son of God? Over 80% of ministers said "no."
 - d. Do you believe in the physical resurrection of Jesus? Over 36% of the ministers said "no."
3. When brethren appeal to and recommend “scholarly” writings from famous Anglican scholars on Hermeneutics, they are appealing to unbelievers.

B. When we correctly conclude that the Bible is from God then there are several truths that necessarily follow. **(2 Tim 3:16-17)**

1. The Bible contains all that we need to know concerning anything God wants us to teach and practice.
2. When we take all that God has said on any given subject then we are to stay within what has been revealed.

1. Should we view the Bible as authoritative and be limited to stay within that authority?

A. There is a revolution going on among churches of Christ where brethren are rejecting the necessity of having authority before we teach or practice a thing.

B. Let us let Jesus teach us on how to handle truths that are revealed by God!

1. Jesus whole life was focused on “doing the will of the Father who sent Me.”

(Jn 5:19-21, 30)

2. There was not a single thing Jesus did without the fellowship and authority of the Father. **(Jn 8:28-29)**

3. Jesus’ light was delivered in the form of words. They were recorded for us to see and respond to. Jesus showed us the response He expects! **(Jn 12:46-50)**

B. Consider the many ways the Bible teaches us that any message from God must be handled this way.

1. In the Old Testament the example of Nadab and Abihu teaches this. **(Lev 10:1-3)**

- 2. The New Testament also recognizes this point. (**Heb 7:12-14; 2 Jn 9-11**)
- 3. By limiting ourselves to only what God has revealed we allow our teaching and practice to glorify God. (**1 Pt 4:11; Col 3:17**)
- C. There are some fundamental conclusions that every Christian must draw.
 - 1. We must know if a teaching or practice is **authorized by God’s word!**
 - 2. Every Christian must be willing to give “Book, Chapter, and Verse” for any practice or teaching they engage in. (**Col. 3:17**).

II. How believing in a Bible that is inspired impacts our Bible study.

- A. Consider questions that we seek from the scriptures.
 - 1. How does God want His people to work together collectively?
 - 2. What is the work of a local church?
 - 3. Should we use instrumental music in our singing of praises to God?
 - 4. Should we have a clergy and a laity? May we create new places for men to have authority over others?
 - 5. May we sprinkle water over an infant and call that Baptism?
- B. Let us consider the questions concerning the Lord’s Supper and instrumental music.
 - 1. How should we approach the Lord’s Supper? (**Mt 26:26-28**)
 - 2. Does the outward form matter? Suppose we substituted hamburger and coke for the “fruit of the vine” and “bread?”
 - 3. Do we change the instructions of the covenant because of human wisdom or convenience?
 - 4. Could we use “bread” and “fruit of the vine” but add some peanut butter to it?
- C. How should we praise God in our worship?
 - 1. Under the Old Covenant God gave specific instructions that included both vocal and instrumental music. (**2 Chron 29:25-26**)
 - 2. Why not simply look at every verse in the New Covenant and see what God wants?

	<i>Vocal Music</i>	<i>Instrumental Music</i>
<i>Matthew 26:30</i>	_____	_____
<i>Acts 16:25</i>	_____	_____
<i>Romans 15:9</i>	_____	_____
<i>1 Corinthians 14:15</i>	_____	_____
<i>Ephesians 5:19</i>	_____	_____
<i>Colossians 3:16</i>	_____	_____
<i>Hebrews 2:12</i>	_____	_____
<i>Hebrews 13:15</i>	_____	_____
<i>James 5:13</i>	_____	_____

- D. Is the blood of the New Covenant sufficient for you? (**Heb 13:20-21**)

Conclusion: Our view of the scriptures will be equivalent to our view of God. (**Jn 12:48**)