

The Bible is the Word of God. All Scripture is God's Word.

2 Tim 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

All of the Bible is God Breathed. In one scripture the Bible has presented itself as a book like no other.

If we believe this verse in 2 Tim 3... It should direct how we read & study all of the Bible.

Your Bible is 2 Testaments...

Old Testament – 39 books

New Testament – 27 books

Within the testaments there are different types of books.

Books of history, poetry, prophecy, letters

The books of the Bible are written differently and for different purpose, yet they are all the Word of God.

“All scripture is God breathed” so there is not unimportant scripture in your Bible. We should want to understand every verse of the Bible.

Do not just read one section of the Bible... Do not avoid certain books... It is all God breathed and useful.

If you believe in God, you should want to read the Bible.

If you are unsure there is a God, you should want to read the Bible.

If you believe something other than these 2 premises... maybe you do not believe in God... or perhaps believe in a God other

than the Bible... you should want to read the Bible to be proven correct.

Read the Word (Daily, consistently)

Deut 17:19 It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the Lord his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees

Receive the Word (Hold it in your heart as the Words of God)

1 Thess 2:13 And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

Meditate (ponder, reflect, think & rethink)

Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, 2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

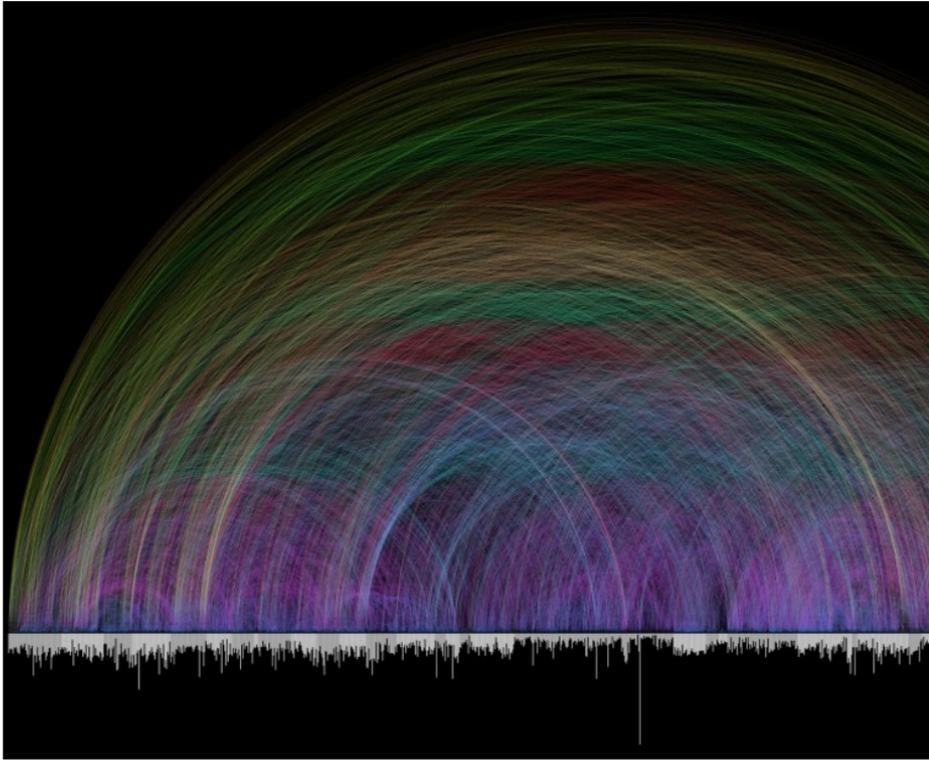
Study (Go to work, correctly understand)

2 Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

We must read, receive, meditate, & study the Word... all the word of God.

Easier said than done... The Bible is complex. If the Bible can be “rightly divided/correctly understood” in could be also wrongly divided/incorrectly understood.

CROSS REFERENCE



No scripture stands alone. All scripture must stand in agreement with all other scripture.

As you study the scripture in front of you it will cross reference to multiple places in your Bible. Knowing these references will likely help you better understand the verse in front of you.

Isaiah 28:10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

You will never be done studying the Word of God. All your study will reveal greater treasure and depth.

Although you will never be done studying the Bible... you can understand the Bible, God's message for us.

For many the Bible is a 1 verse per day inspiration.

There was a daily calendar that would everyday give you an inspirational verse from the Bible. One day it would say "the Lord is my shepherd" (Psalm 23:1) the next day "All things work together for the Good of them that love the Lord." (Romans 8:1) ...and then one day the inspirational verse was Matthew 4:9.

Matthew 4:9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

Can you tell me what is wrong with this inspirational verse? God did not say it. Satan said it!

Is Matthew 4:9 God breathed scripture?
Yes.

Is Matthew 4:9 true? No! In fact I would argue that Satan is lying

As you study, pay attention to context.

Context

Hebrews 1: 1-2 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son

God speaks in various ways at various times.

-Burning bush

-Rainbow

-Audible voice

-Dreams/Visions

-Spiritual Gifts of tongues, interpretation, word of knowledge...

What forms context?

Who wrote it? What is the context of the writer?

When did they write it?

Why did they write it?

Who was it written to?

What was happening in the culture they were writing to?

Every chapter carries a context.

Every book carries a context.

All Scripture is God breathed... not every interpretation of a scripture is correct.

The writer of a verse meant ONE thing

when they wrote it. Do we understand what they mean?

If not careful we will interpret the scripture from our context and miss the message.

There are many ways to study the Bible.

Read cover to cover... chronological reading... topical reading.

Take notes as you read.

Questions

Revelations

Correlation

Different Bible translations. Find a good translation that balances truth & readability.

How to test a doctrine/teaching

“You should be baptized” is the claim. How do we test this doctrine?

Start with Jesus (Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

Why start with Jesus??

John 5:39-40 You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

Who is talking? Jesus

Who is He talking to? The Pharisees

What scriptures are they studying? The Old Testament

In your own words what is Jesus revealing?

We start with Jesus because ALL SCRIPTURE testifies of Jesus... all scripture is meant to point us to Christ. It can point us to Christ by shedding light... but scripture can also lead us to Christ by showing us what darkness looks like.

Since all scripture points to Christ, I suggest you start with Christ & work back words.

Did Jesus teach us about baptism? Yes.

-Jesus was baptized.

Matthew 3:13-17 13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

-Jesus commands that his followers are baptized. (great commission)

Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

So does Jesus seem pro baptism? Would Jesus say you should be baptized?

Jesus said it, now where in the Bible do we go?

The History of Church – The Book of ACTS

The book of Acts gives us an illustration of what Jesus taught, being lived out in historical form.

Jesus taught on baptism... so what did it look like when people in the Church were baptized? Is there an emphasis on baptism in Acts?

Acts 2:36-38 36 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers,

what shall we do?” 38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

When people asked Peter point blank what they needed to do... did Peter tell them to be baptized?

How many were baptized?

Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

As we study through Acts baptism is something that happens often. In fact I don't think there is a convert in Acts who is not baptized... Acts 8, 10, 16, 19, 22...

Taught by Jesus and modeled in the Church... now what? The LETTERS/Epistles

Did the ministry of the Church ever teach on this? Could they supply another witness and more clarification?

Romans 6:4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Cross Reference – Baptism is cross referenced with the death of Jesus... so all scriptures about the importance of Jesus' death should also correlate with baptism.

Colossians 2:11-12 11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Cross reference – Baptism is cross referenced with circumcision. So we will need to learn about circumcision to really understand the context of Paul’s writing in Colossians 2. WHERE IN THE BIBLE WOULD WE GO TO LEARN ABOUT CIRCUMSISION? THE OLD TESTAMENT.

1 Peter 3: 20-21 to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Is this verse pro-baptism? Yes. Does this verse have a cross reference? Yes – Salvation & also Noah & the Ark

Where in your Bible would you go to learn about Noah & the Ark? The Old Testament – Genesis 6.

Did Jesus teach it? Is it modeled in the book of Acts? Is it further taught & clarified in the letters?

As you study topically through the New Testament, it will point you to the Old Testament. Within the Old Testament there will be symbolism or prophetic revelation that confirms a correct doctrine.

The best commentary on the Old Testament is the New Testament.

(Law of the first mention)

To really understand your Bible, you must begin to know your Bible.

Questions are a good evidence that someone has been deeply studying the Word of God.

As I study I find answers, but I also find new questions.