

The Bible

The Importance of Scripture

Living without divine revelation, living without the Word of God, is like trying to navigate across country without a GPS, without a map, without a compass, without any road signs, and without a guide.

Life without the Bible relegates individuals to a life in darkness, moral confusion, and no sense of direction or destiny. Without the doctrine of revelation, there is no hope. The Bible gives humanity hope. *“After darkness, light.”* The light of God’s Word penetrates and overcomes the darkness.

Doctrine of Revelation

The Transforming Power of the Word of God

1 Thessalonians 2:13

1. The concept of divine revelation is rooted in Scripture.
 - *1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

Special Note.

When interpreting the Scriptures, context is king. Always pay attention to the context.

2. The gospel is to be received as the Word of God and not as the mere opinion of a man, no matter how eloquent individuals may express themselves.
3. Paul teaches that the word of God works in the life of an individual like a body of water shapes a riverbed, or the wind blows. The forces of nature move to bend and shape the elements just as effectively as the Word of God moves in a person that believes. The Word of God comes into us like a seed, and it grows, and it works.

Special Note.

While God's Word cuts us like a knife, it also comforts us (Martin Luther).

4. It is only when the gospel is received as divine revelation it can be effective in the heart. It is by the Word individuals are brought to repentance and the Word regenerates individuals.
 - *1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*
5. Three truths must be remembered.
 - The Word of God is communicated.
 - The Word of God is preached. It is proclaimed. It is in fact the Word of God.
 - The Word of God is effectual. It works in us. It works on us. It transforms us into the image of Christ.

Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God
John 6:66-69

6. In John 6:66-69, two days in the life of Christ are covered. On the first day, Jesus fed the five thousand. On the second day, the teaching of Christ in the Bread of Life Discourse causes people to go away in droves.
 - *John 6:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. 67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? 68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.*
7. "From that time", or, "After this," a reference to all the teaching He had just given them. Jesus has revealed that no man can come to Him except the Father draws him.
 - *John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*
 - *John 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.*
8. Having watched the multitudes leave Him, Jesus turned to the twelve and asked, "Will ye also go away?" (v. 67).
9. Simon Peter spoke for all the disciples, except Judas.
 - *John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.*

10. Those who deny Christ have to go somewhere. Peter realized there was nowhere to go.

11. Revelation, meaning, “to unveil”, is divided into two categories.

- General revelation.
 - ❖ Nature. Creation testifies to a Creator. *Psalms 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*
 - ❖ Laws of Nature. God is revealed not only in nature, but in the laws that govern nature. There is order in nature.
 - ❖ Humanity. *Psalms 139:14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.*
 - ❖ Soul. *Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*
- Special (Particular) revelation.
 - ❖ God speaks through visions and through the prophets. *Hebrews 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,*
 - ❖ God speaks through the incarnation. *Hebrews 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.*
 - ❖ God speaks through His Word. *2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

12. There are attributes of revelation.

- Necessity. As humans, we need revelation. We need the revelation of nature to point us to nature’s God. We need the Scriptures to point us to God through Christ.
- Authority. The authority of Scripture is united with the Author of Scripture who, like nature, is truthful. Scripture is truthful because it is a revelation of God. It stands over us.
 - ❖ Inspiration.
 - ❖ Inerrancy.
- Clarity. Nature is clear, and so is Scripture. *Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

- Sufficiency. The Scriptures are designed to be a sufficient guide for living.
- Beauty. Revelation is beautiful. There is the beauty of creation. The Scriptures are beautiful and altogether lovely and to be desired. *Ecclesiastes 3:11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.*