

TIMOTHY TEAM ADULT BIBLE STUDY
Genesis: Let There Be Light!
Session 1: The Bible – Student Notes
HOW WE APPROACH THE BIBLE AT HERITAGE
Heritage Church, Van Buren, Arkansas – September 2, 2015

Memory verse: A -- *And God said, “Let there be light!”* **Genesis 1:3**

Timothy Team Pledge to the Bible: “I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God’s Holy Word! I will make it a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. I will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God!

GROUP DISCUSSION: Share your name, place of Birth, how long you’ve been coming to Heritage, and your expectations: What do you want to see God do this year through Wednesday nights? (see workbook). If time permits, share one prayer request.

My Battle Cry!

Jude 3 *“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you earnestly contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints.”*

Read Romans 10: 9-17. What does it tell you?

Read Romans 15: 4-6, 13-14, 17-19. What is the purpose of the Word? What is our target? What do you want the Word to do in you??

1 Thessalonians 2:13: *For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.*

GROUP DISCUSSION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE MEAN TO YOU PERSONALLY? What does it tell you?

I. THREE MAIN CATEGORIES OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

1. Liberal-Rationalistic: The Bible _____ the Word of God.
“anti-supernatural,” “demythologizing”; example: Rudolph Bultman

2. Neo-Orthodox: The Bible _____ the Word of God as it meets a need.

“Subjective” – Truth is relative, what may be true for you is not necessarily true for me! Example of scholar: Karl Barth

3. Orthodox-Evangelical: The Bible _____ the Word of God.

--taken at face value unless obviously symbolic

--totally inspired and authoritative

--examples: John Wesley, Kenneth Kantzer, Joel Green, N.T. Wright, James D.G. Dunn, your pastors, etc. ... This is our Heritage as Methodist Christians. It is where we stand in Timothy Team!

John Wesley: “I am a man of One Book! ... I am a Bible bigot! If there be any mistake in the Bible, there may as well be a thousand. Nay, if there be one falsehood in that book it did not come from the God of Truth!”

HANDOUT: The Holy Bible: “Authoritative, Inspired, Up-to-Date!, Alive!”

II. APPROACHING THE BIBLE FOR ENCOUNTER:

Reading the Word of God to Encounter the God of the Word

A. Listen to the words of the Psalmist: Psalm 19:

Where/how did he encounter God?

1) Vss. 1-6: _____ – _____ Revelation (Rom. 1:18-20)

2) Vss. 7-11: _____ – _____ Revelation

3) Vs. 14: _____ – _____ Revelation
John 1:14, 18, Hebrews 1:1-3, Romans 8:16, Ephesians 1:17

B. How we usually approach the Bible –

1) _____ John 5: 39-40!

2) _____: Using the Bible

C.S. Lewis

“When we “receive” it we exert our senses and imagination and various other powers according to a pattern invented by the artist. When we “use” it we treat it as assistance for our own activities... “Using” is inferior to “reception” because art, if used rather than received, merely facilitates, brightens, relieves or palliates our life, and does not add to it.”

C. How God wants us to approach the Bible: To _____:

_____ and _____:

- 1) Ex 33:12-23; 34:1-7 – As a means to _____ God
- 2) II Corinthians 3:12-18 – To be _____!
 “Beholding leads to becoming and becoming leads to reflecting” – Max Lucado
- 3) As a _____, not a Buffet!
 - Ezekiel 2:8- 3:3
 - Jer. 15:16
 - Rev. 10:9-10

Mark Twain – “It’s not the things in the Bible that I don’t understand that trouble me, it’s the things I do understand.”

3) Hebrews 4:12 and II Corinthians 3:6

4) Allow for _____ & Paradox: Rom 11:33-36, Psalm 131
 “The text is no longer something to be looked at with cool & detached expertise but something to be entered into with the playful curiosity of a child” Eugene Peterson

5) Reading to _____
 • Matt 13:3-9; Mark 4:3-9; Luke 8:5-8; Rev. 2:7, 17, 29; Rev. 3:6, 13, 22

6) Ask for and Trust in the Holy Spirit’s _____! John 14: 16-18, 25-26; 16: 13-15

III. THREE FOR THE ROAD!

1. _____ Scripture is _____ By God: 2 Timothy 3:16
 “When Scripture speaks, God speaks!” Martin Luther
2. _____ can learn the Bible!
3. The Bible gives us the _____ for every need. --Isaiah 50:4

NEXT STEP: What does God want me to take from this lesson? What does He want me to do?

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 1: God Creates!

The Holy Bible

Authoritative, Inspired, Up-to-Date, Alive!

“The Bible does not need to be rewritten, but reread.”

“The Bible sure throws a lot of light on the Bible commentaries.”

“The Bible will keep us from sin, and sin will keep us from the Bible.”

“Study the Bible to be wise; believe it to be safe; practice it to be holy.”

FACTS TO REMEMBER:

God breathed through the experiences and personalities of 40 men, most unknown to each other, over a period of approximately 1500 years, to reveal Himself and His plan of redemption to all mankind.

The word bible, derived from the Latin word “biblia,” means the books, and has become synonymous with the “sacred writings, the Word of God, and the Scriptures.”---singular in unity of thought and plural in contributed writers and writings. The Bible is divided into the Old and New Testaments or Covenants---39 books in the Old and 27 in the New. In Jesus’ day, the O.T. was divided into the writings of Moses, Psalms, and Prophets; today we divide the O.T. into the 5 books of the Pentateuch (writings of Moses), 12 Historical, 5 Poetical, 5 Major Prophets, and 12 Minor prophets. (Major and Minor means long and short, nor important and unimportant) The New Testament includes over 300 quotations from these Old Testament Scriptures---many used by Jesus Himself.

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Koine Greek, the language common to the entire 1st century world. The Septuagint, a Greek translation of the O.T. made in the 3rd century B.C. was common in Jesus’ day. The 27-book New Testament canon was formally ratified by the Council of Carthage, 397 A.D., and through the centuries has held firm, surviving every conceivable effort to destroy, discredit, and distort it.

All the numerous translations and paraphrases have gotten us closer to the original texts and languages---a miracle in terms of human communication. Surely God has guided His Word as He said He would do! “Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven.” Psalm 119:89

WHAT THE WRITTEN WORD SAYS ABOUT ITSELF:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...*

2 Peter 1:20-21 *.... but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy*

1Thess. 2:13 *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...*

1Corin. 14:37 *If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.*

Isaiah 40:8 *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand forever*

WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT HIS WORD:

Exodus 19:9 *that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee forever*

Isaiah 55:11 *So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return unto Me void*

Joshua 1:8 *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate there in day and night (Over 2,000 times, the phrase “Thus sayeth the Lord” is stated.)*

WHAT JESUS SAYS ABOUT THE WRITTEN WORD:

John 5:39,46-47 *Search the Scriptures...they are they which testify of Me*

Matthew 22:29 *..ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures*

Mark 13:31 *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away*

Luke 24:27,44 *...all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in all the prophets, and in the psalms concerning Me.*