

Engaging in Active Christianity

How to Study Your Bible, Lesson 1

Why study the Bible?

- ✓ First and foremost because we need to know God.
 - ✓ Knowing the Bible is not an end in itself, knowing the God of the Bible is the whole point of giving us the written text.
 - ✓ The devil knows the Bible and believes it's the word of God, orthodoxy can't be our only goal!
James 2:19
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1. We study it to know the Author of it; we study it because it is the Word of God.

- ✓ "because I believe it is the Word of God" is not a good enough answer!
 - ✓ We are going to be answering a number of questions together: Where did we get the Bible, How did we arrive at 66 books?, How accurate are the translations?, Which ones are best?, How do we study this sometimes complicated document?
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There actually only two world views:

- 1) Everything is as result of a cosmic accident (modern Humanism).
 - 2) Everything Is here as a deliberate result of a Creator.
 - ✓ Your world view drastically effects how you act, your morals and behaviors
 - ✓ It is only through accountability to the Creator who fashioned us for moral obedience and a high spiritual destiny, that mankind can have true dignity and true freedom.
 - ✓ We come to know our responsibility to Him only through the text of Scripture.
 - ✓ Mankind has been in rebellion against this Creator from the beginning: **Genesis 3:1** (notice that the rebellion is initiated with the questioning of His Word)
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2. The Bible will not let you say that some of it is accurate and some it isn't,

- ✓ **2 Timothy 3:16**, all of it not just the parts you like and that make sense to you.
 - ✓ "Inspired by God" == Literally says , "God Breathed."
 - ✓ This is one of the unique characteristics of The Bible is that it is an integral whole, it, although written by many different men, carries through single themes, doctrines, teachings in such a way that you have to accept it all or not at all.
 - ✓ We find that the Bible states that men were specifically chosen, **Jeremiah 1:5**...and specifically inspired to write what they did: **2 Peter 1:20-21**
 - ✓ Moses is said by the Jews to have been instructed letter by letter what to write in the first 5 books.
 - ✓ Jesus, it appears, confirms this: **Matthew 5:18**.
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There are throughout this text macrocodes that reveal integrated wholeness to the text; they revealed the origins of what is written were outside our time domain, for instance, detailing history in advance.

- ✓ We find many times over that an element introduced earlier in the Bible in some other book makes no sense except in the context of an event that happened 1000 years later.

The Old Testament presents and specifies the Messiahs centuries in advance and in such a way that in fact Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection authenticate what the Jews have said all along about it, that the Bible was inspired by God.

- ✓ Jesus fulfilled some 200 prophecies about the Messiah from the Old Testament.
 - ✓ **Psalms 22** describing His crucifixion hundreds of years before crucifixion was invented and the first and last words of the Psalm are Jesus' first and last words on the cross.
 - ✓ Jesus entire genealogy is given in advance in the Old Testament.
 - ✓ The very day He would present Himself as King to Israel in Jerusalem on a donkey is predicted over 400 years in advance in the book Daniel.
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2. What is man's role in the writing of the Bible?

- ✓ Form, man contributed much to the writing of Scripture styles which are evident throughout the different books.
 - ✓ Content, the Bible regards the human writers to have contributed nothing in the sense of content.
 - ✓ We discover that the integrity of the design manifests a strategy that anticipates people messing with it (hostile jamming).
 - ✓ Where's the chapter on salvation?... Where's the chapter on Baptism?... Where's the chapter on that describes the Trinity?...
 - ✓ Take any critical subject the Bible teaches and try to find the chapter on it, and you'll find it isn't there.
 - ✓ Its design anticipates hostile jamming.
 - ✓ If you're trying to communicate a message and know that it will be messed with as far as content and message then you spread your message out over the available band width to avert this (this is what the Bible demonstrates)
 - ✓ You can tear any page out of the Bible and not lose any of its message—you may lose some of the fine points but that's all.
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3. We use the word of inerrancy to refer to the original documents whereas the translations have a tendency toward some error.

- ✓ Less than 1% is under competent dispute and no doctrine of the Scriptures depends upon any of the disputed passages.
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4. Where did the text come from or how did it come together since it is composed of many different books written by some 40 different authors?

- ✓ When the Jews returned from exile around 500 B.C. they had lost their nation, culture and language and knew that they had to redefine themselves and this was begun by consolidating their holy books.
- ✓ Some 200 years later because of the influence and influx of the Greek language this consolidated book was translated from Hebrew into Greek by 70 Jewish scholars in the city of Alexandria, Egypt.
- ✓ This Septuagint translation is the one quoted in the New Testament by Jesus, Paul, Peter, and the other writers of the New Testament (this was the Bible of the early Church)
- ✓ Earliest versions not in Hebrew or Greek were translated into Latin
- ✓ In 1948 an Arab shepherd made an amazing discovery in some caves facing the dead sea—in them were numerous clay vessels that contained what now are the oldest copies of the Old Testament that we have today. (The Dead Seas Scrolls)
- ✓ When compared to our modern translations there was found to be only few and minor discrepancies.
