

“How to Enjoy the Bible”

**Week #1 Nov. 29, 2015 “The Bible: Written, God-breathed,
Profitable for Every Believer”**

***Our Subject: “The Bible: Scripture, God-breathed,
Profitable for Every Believer”***

Our Key Scripture:

2 Tim. 3:16-17

16 All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

- This states the facts. But if anything, we MUST confess that we are imperfect, not perfect, and rather failures, to say the least, when it comes to good works as the Bible defines them. Agreed?
- So what then are we missing? Your ideas are welcome.

Introduction:

- Enjoying the Bible
 - What is it?
 - Why should we read and study it?
 - How can we enjoy it?

Transition: “Two Minutes” was so much on point recently. Did you read that? Here is what it said:

“They set “the teachings of Jesus” (on earth) over against “the teachings of Paul,” not because they are determined to obey Jesus, but because they are determined to minimize that which God has “magnified”—the authority of Paul as “the apostle of the Gentiles” (Rom. 11:13).

- They seek to exalt the teachings of the earthly Jesus above those of Paul because they have closed their ears to the oft-repeated and Spirit-inspired claims of Paul that the *glorified* Lord spoke *again* from heaven, to and through him, committing to him “*the* dispensation of the grace of God” and the program for the day in which we live (Acts 20:24; 22:6-10,17-21; 26:12-18; Rom. 11:13; 15:15,16; 16:25,26; I Cor. 3:10; 11:23; 15:3; II Cor. 5:16; Gal. 1:1,11,12; 2:7-9; Eph. 3:1-4,8,9; 6:18-20; Phil. 4:9; Col. 1:23-27; I Thes. 4:15; II Thes. 3:14; I Tim. 2:5-7; II Tim. 2:7-9; Titus 1:2,3, etc.).
- They have forgotten the stern rebuke the Galatians received for failing to recognize Paul’s teachings as a message from the risen, exalted Christ (Gal. 1:6-12). They have taken lightly Paul’s words to the Corinthians:
 - **“...if I come again I will not spare: since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me...” (II Cor. 13:2,3).**
- They have distorted Paul’s inspired admonition as to *his own writings*:
 - **“If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; he is proud, knowing nothing...from such withdraw thyself” (I Tim. 6:3-5).”**
- ***Amens?***

[COMMENTS?

A. Some Fundamentals For Our Enjoyment of the Bible

- The difference between the “word” and the “words”
 - 788,280 words in KJV, 1769
 - 31,102 verses
 - 1,189 chapters

- 39 books - OT
- 27 books - NT
- And all of this makes up the Word of God, the Bible
 - Written by many human authors
 - ... over a period of more than 4,000 years
 - ... to and concerning radically different groups of people
 - ... mostly written to and for the Jews
- **SEVERAL KEYS TO ENJOYING THE BIBLE:**
 - The difference between *interpretation & application!*
 - A quotation or two, for illustration
 - Gen 3:1-3 “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which [is] in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.
 - Psa 107:23 They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters;
 - The Word of God is supreme always: A warning
 - Beware of presumed words or “a word” from God that is not founded squarely upon the “word of God”, the Bible.
 - God’s revealed and inspired word is complete today!
 - Finally, the most serious issue of translations / paraphrases - We must know what God has said!!
 - “Word for word, or, thought for thought?”
 - *Formal Equivalence versus Dynamic*

- My convictions regarding Bible translations

B. The Foundation of Our Enjoyment of the Bible - Its Inspiration

2 Tim. 3:16-17

16 All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

- **“All scripture”**: EVERY MARK ON THE PAGE
- **“given by inspiration of God”**: GOD BREATHED OUT
- **“is profitable for”**: IS BENEFICIAL
- **“doctrine”**: DOCTRINAL TEACHING
- **“reproof”**: CONVICTION
- **“correction”**: STRAIGHTENING UP
- **“instruction in righteousness”**: CHILD REARING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS
- **“that the man of God”**: MEN AND WOMEN!!
- **“may be perfect, thoroughly furnished”**: REACHING GOD’S GOAL AND FULLY OUTFITTED FOR THE TASK
- **“good works”**: NOT JUST LOOKING OK BUT BEING GOOD

CONCLUSIONS:

THERE ARE MANY REASONS Biblical Inspiration Makes a Great Difference! WHAT ARE SOME OF THEM?

- 1. This is GOD'S WORD and not MAN'S so we can approach it very reverently***
- 2. There is no mixture of man's errors or Satan's lies in it.***
- 3. It is clear where to look and where not to look for the truth.***
- 4. Possessing the truth is very calming to the mind, spirit, and soul for some.***
- 5. If we do not understand it yet, it is not God's fault!***
- 6. Regarding our eternal destiny, some level of certainty is MOST important!!***
- 7. ANY TESTIMONIES??***

Just a Few Key Scriptures for Our Reference (in Addition to the Others Already Given!!)

Psa 12:6 The words of the LORD [are] pure words: [as] silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Psa 119:103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! [yea, sweeter] than honey to my mouth!

Pro 15:26 The thoughts of the wicked [are] an abomination to the LORD: but [the words] of the pure [are] pleasant words.

Jer 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

1 Cor 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Eph 5:6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

1 Tim 4:6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.