

THE TRUTH

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Lesson 1 – The Truth About God’s Word

In a test of high school students, eight out of nine could not name three prophets of the Old Testament, and ten out of eighteen could not name three of Christ’s disciples. In one elementary school, 351 out of 1,373 had never heard of the Ten Commandments and in one university, 7 percent of the students could not name a single book of the Old Testament. Although some of the great principles of the Bible are commonly known for they underlie our whole social structure, ignorance about this Book and the truths it teaches is appalling.

This lesson leads us into a preliminary exploration of our textbook. Then, as you study the lessons that follow, each will unfold more challenging secrets of the Word of God.

1. What is the Bible composed of?

NOTE: During the first twenty-five hundred years of human history, there was no written Bible. Those who had been taught of God communicated their knowledge to others verbally and it was handed down from father to son, through successive generations. The preparation of the written word began in the time of _____.

There are _____ books in the entire Bible. _____ books comprise the Old Testament; Genesis to Malachi, which were written in Hebrew. The New Testament has _____ books; Matthew to Revelation, which were written in Greek.

- The Old Testament is the New Testament _____
- The New Testament is the Old Testament _____

2. There are three things every book must have, what are they?

- A central _____ or _____ [John 5:39; Luke 24:27]
- A central _____ [Luke 19:9,1 Timothy 1:15, Matthew 1:21]

“The central theme of the Bible, the theme about which every other in the whole book clusters, is the redemption plan, the restoration in the human soul of the image of God.” [Education, 125]

- An _____

3. Who is the author of the Bible? [2 Peter 1:21; Jeremiah 30:2] Ans. The _____ and _____

NOTE: The writers of the Bible were the “pens” in the “hand” of the Holy Ghost. Because the scriptures were written in different ages, by men who differed widely in rank and occupation and in mental and spiritual endowments, the books of the Bible present a wide contrast in style, as well as a diversity in the nature of the subjects unfolded. Different forms of expression are employed by different writers; often the same truth is more strikingly presented by one than by another. God spoke through His Holy Spirit and inspired the prophets to write down His messages. Although they recorded these messages in their own words; the message of the Bible comes directly from God. The Bible is God’s Word.

4. Since the Bible was written by man, how much of it is actually inspired? [2 Timothy 3:16; John 5:39; 10:35; Luke 24:27] Ans. _____

NOTE: Paul does not say that some sections are inspired; but rather, God inspires both the Old and New Testaments.

The Word of God is also likened to:

- A _____ [Psalms 119:105]
- A _____ [Jeremiah 23:29]
- A _____ [Hebrews 4:12]
- A _____ [Jeremiah 23:29]
- _____ [Jeremiah 15:16]
- _____ [Luke 8:11]

All things that threaten to extinguish it have aided it, and it proves every day how transient is the noblest monument that man can build, how enduring the least word God has spoken. Tradition has dug a grave for it; intolerance has lit for it many a fagot; many a Judas has betrayed it with a kiss; many a Peter has denied it with an oath; many a Demas has forsaken it; but the Word of God still endures.

5. What are the four things the Bible is “good” for? [2 Timothy 3:16-17]

- i. _____: A belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a church or Congregation. All throughout the scriptures Jesus and his Apostles warned his followers to avoid:
 - Doctrines of _____ [Matthew 15:9]
 - Doctrines of _____ [1 Timothy 4:1]
- ii. _____: Telling us when we are doing wrong willfully.
- iii. _____: Instruct those who are ignorantly doing wrong.
- iv. _____ in _____: It will restore people and improve their lives and character.

6. The Apostle Paul encourages us to do what, in order to understand truth? [2 Timothy 2:15; Psalms 55:17] Ans. _____

NOTE: The word “study” comes from the Greek word, which is interpreted “Spoudazo,” which means:

- To be _____
- To be _____
- To _____
- To _____ one's self
- To _____
- To dig _____

It is very important to study the Bible for yourself. We can't rely on what others tell us. God invites you to go on a personal discovery of truth from His Word.

Helpful Study Tips:

- **ALWAYS BEGIN WITH PRAYER:** Never should the Bible be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages, we should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given.
- **STUDY IT THROUGH.** Never begin a day without mastering a verse.
- **PRAY IT IN:** Never leave your Bible until the passage you have studied is a part of your very being.
- **PUT IT DOWN:** Put the thought God gives you in the margin of your Bible or your notebook.
- **WORK IT OUT:** Live the truth you get, through all the hours of the day.
- **PASS IT ON:** Seek to tell somebody what you have learned.

7. When one begins to read God's Book what two-fold effect will it have upon him? [Revelation 10: 10] Ans. A _____ and a _____ one.

8. Why do some people have difficulty understanding Bible truth? [Mark 7:8] Ans. Because they are unwilling to give up _____ ideas and family _____.

Understanding the Bible is difficult for some people because of their unwillingness to give up their own ideas. Such as, “I feel,” “Well I think,” “My opinion is,” etc. God invites us to seek His way, not our own. He invites us to turn from the pride of our own understanding to humble acceptance of His revealed will in His Word.

9. What attitude is essential in understanding Bible truth? [1 John 1:7; John 2:5] Ans. An _____ one.

NOTE: An understanding of the Bible largely depends on a willingness to do whatever God requires. Bible study is not simply a mental exercise. It is a heart experience. If you are willing to do whatever God asks you in His Word, He will guide you to the truth. [**Proverbs 4:18**]

10. What method of Bible study is especially helpful in discovering God's truth? [Isaiah 28:9, 10; 1 Corinthians 2:13] Ans. Comparing _____ with _____

NOTE: Let's suppose you are putting together a jigsaw puzzle. Do you come to a conclusion about what the finished picture will look like without looking at the original picture? Certainly not! It's the same with God's Word. God invites us to study all the texts on a given subject before coming to a conclusion regarding what the Bible teaches on a particular topic.

As the Holy Spirit leads us in our Bible study, interpreting line upon line and text after text, we will know the truth of God. God has not left us alone in our pursuit of truth. He has promised the Holy Spirit's guidance. By allowing one passage of Scripture to explain another, we discover God's interpretation.

11. What will happen in our lives as we study God's Word? [2 Peter 1:3, 4; Jude 1:24] Ans. We will be kept from _____ and from _____

Alexander McLeod tells of two young men who crept at night into a factory to discover the secret of a new machine that a clever man had invented, so they could make secret drawings of it and enrich themselves. But while still in their hotel room, before heading across town to the factory, one of them saw a Bible on the table. Picking it up, it seemed to open in his hands to Exodus 20; and he read the Ten Commandments. When he came to the eighth one, he could go no farther. Its words seemed to flash like fire, and smote his conscience. "Thou shalt not steal." Those men went home without the secret of the machine, but with the secret of personal power.

AN INTERESTING STORY

A number of years ago a wealthy Englishman grew sick and died. When the day came for the reading of his will and the distribution of the fortune that he had left, his favorite daughter was bitterly disappointed. The father had designated in the will that she was to receive "My Bible and all that it contains." Knowing that her father was an ardent student of the Bible and that this Book was near and dear to his heart, she hid it away in an old trunk and went on living as before.

As time passed, adversity seemed to dog her steps. Ill health and difficulty reduced her to poverty. Broken in health and spirit, in desperation she sought a solution to her problems. After trying every other means available to her, she turned to her father's Bible seeking the answer to her difficulties. Imagine her surprise as she leafed through that long-forgotten Book to find that between many of the pages of the Bible her father had secreted large Bank of England notes. She had been wealthy all of the time and had been unaware of her good fortune because she had failed to realize what her father had meant when he had given her "My Bible and all that it contains."

Our heavenly Father has left us a great treasure in the pages of this wonderful Book. We may not be able to find bank notes between the pages of the Bible, but we can find peace, joy, hope, faith, and eternal life by studying the Book. Priceless treasures! For-gotten riches! What greater treasure can a man hope for? Many a millionaire would exchange his fortune for these valuables.