# **Growth Projects: The Bible and Leadership**

Work on these from Sept. 17 until Oct. 15 <a href="https://equipthepeople.com/leadership-track/">https://equipthepeople.com/leadership-track/</a>

## Head: Understanding the Bible - authority, reliability

- ✓ **Read Scripture** 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 1 Cor 2:10-13; Matthew 5:17; Hebrews 4:12; James 1:22-25. Jot down observations and applications.
- ✓ **Read** *Bible Doctrine* by Grudem chapters 2 & 3 on the Doctrine of the Word of God.
- ✓ Write a summary paragraph on reasons why you believe that the Bible is authoritative and the Word of God. List ideas on how might you answer a skeptic.

# Heart: Loving the Bible - meditation

- ✓ Read handout about John Piper's IOUS acronym and listen to the corresponding audio <u>"I'm Bored with the Bible."</u> (located at: desiringgod.org)
- ✓ Meditate Pick a portion of Psalm 119 to read. Meditate on its truths and pray them into your life and heart. Write out a short prayer.
- ✓ **Read –** Mark 4:1-20. Which soil is where your heart is at right now? Journal and pray.

# Hands: Getting into the Bible -methods

- ✓ Try out a Bible study method applied to a passage of your choice.
- ✓ Use the discovery method or inductive method. Directions for these are listed on the website. A few other methods are also listed if you know discovery and inductive well.
- ✓ Passage ideas: study one of the passages listed on this sheet about the Word of God.

#### **Discussion Ideas for Cohort Time**

- 1. What stood out to you as important or meaningful from the Grudem reading?
- 2. Review the large group session notes, share ideas that stood out.
- 3. Share your summary paragraph about why you believe the Bible to be the Word of God and how you would answer a skeptic.
- 4. How can we keep our hearts open to God's Word? Share your highlights from the meditation and prayer activities in the heart section above (IOUS, Ps 119, Mk 4).
- 5. Share your research and highlights from practicing a Bible study method.
- 6. Talk about reasons why people don't study the Bible. Share benefits of studying the Bible.
- 7. Share practical ideas from your life on how you have practiced Bible study, meditation, reading, and memorization.

# The I.O.U.S Prayer

## By John Piper

**I—Incline** "Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain." (Psalm 119:36)

**O—Open** "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law." (Psalm 119:18)

**U—Unite** "Unite my heart to fear your name." (Psalm 86:11)

**S—Satisfy** "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days." (Psalm 90:14)

I—(Incline!) The first thing my soul needs is an inclination toward God and his Word. Without that, nothing else will happen of any value in my life. I must want to know God and read his Word and draw near to him. Where does that "want to" come from? It comes from God. So Psalm 119:36 teaches us to pray, "Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!" Very simply we ask God to take our hearts, which are more inclined to breakfast and the newspaper, and change that inclination. We are asking that God create desires that are not there.

**O—(Open!)** Next I need to have the eyes of my heart opened so that when my inclination leads me to the Word, I see what is really there, and not just my own ideas. Who opens the eyes of the heart? God does. So Psalm 119:18 teaches us to pray, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law." So many times we read the Bible and see nothing wonderful. Its reading does not produce joy. So what can we do? We can cry to God: "Open the eyes of my heart, O Lord, to see what it says about you as wonderful."

**U—(Unite!)** Then I am concerned that my heart is badly fragmented. Parts of it are inclined, and parts of it are not. Parts see wonder, and parts say, "That's not so wonderful." What I long for is a united heart where all the parts say a joyful Yes! to what God reveals in his Word. Where does that wholeness and unity come from? It comes from God. So Psalm 86:11 teaches us to pray, "Unite my heart to fear your name."

**S—(Satisfy!)** What I really want from all this engagement with the Word of God and the work of his Spirit in answer to my prayers is for my heart to be satisfied with God and not with the world. Where does that satisfaction come from? It comes from God. So Psalm 90:14 teaches us to pray, "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days."

# Leadership Track

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

# Why we should read the Bible

- Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; but you shall meditate therein day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success."
  - This prosperity isn't worldly prosperity necessarily but has in mind the life of the
    person who first reads it, then observes it, and finally to know that what is written
    in it shows us how we can prosper and be successful, but not by worldly standards
    but according to God's standard.
- Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."
  - Faith comes as a natural result of hearing the Word of Christ and since Jesus is the Word (John 1) the Word must be heard by speaking it in order for people to hear about faith in Christ. It is assumed that through their "hearing" it was spoken by someone. We know that Stephen, prior to his death, verbally gave the Bible's story of redemption and that Paul used the Word to convince many of the Jews in the Synagogue that Jesus was the Messiah and as a result many came to place their trust in Him.
- Second Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."
  - Scriptures is God-breathed...that is, it is inspired by God Himself but it must be breathed out by human agents to in order to reprove, correct, train, and equip every believer for "every good work." That's why expository, verse by verse preaching is so powerful.
- Psalm 119:11 "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."
  - The psalmist declared that he has stored up God's Word in his heart or basically memorized it. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by Satan, Jesus always quoted Scripture to rebuff and rebuke the Devil. The Devil always misquotes Scripture but if someone memorizes the Word of God in context, they have a storehouse of powerful weapons to defend against temptations and tests and carry them through severe trials and tribulations. Store it up because you'll most certainly need it.
- Matthew 4:4 But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."
- Daily devotionals are great, but encouraged to still spend time in the Word.

# **Logistics** for studying the Bible and personal time

- 1. Be deliberate
  - a. Target a specific time, and
  - b. Place every day
- 2. Find an accountability mentor
  - a. Spouse / family member
  - b. Elder
  - c. Community group
  - d. Friend
- 3. The Bible App / technology
  - a. Mobile / easy to take with you
  - b. Tons of plans that can apply it to your specific needs or wishes (issues, challenges, holidays, etc.)
  - c. An audio component that can read to you while driving, exercising, etc.
  - d. We live in a blessed time

# **Methods** for studying the Bible and personal time

- 1. Introductory remarks
  - a. Make the commitment to get through the entire Bible at least once initially
  - b. If that's too much, consider starting with John or Matthew
- 2. The "three ponds" approach
  - a. Wildcard
  - b. Proverbs or psalms
  - c. One of the Gospels
- 3. Warren Wiersbe and other deep dive options
- 4. Study Notes from Life Application Study Bible NIV
- 5. Augment with some level of memorization from the topical memory system

# Ways that you have seen the bible help you on a daily basis

- 1. Go to resource in times of need
- 2. Helpful to pass along scripture to children as well
- 3. Useful in prayer life
- 4. Can shift your focus off of things of this world
- 5. Helpful in conversations with friends and in counseling others
- 6. Enjoyable in church:)

# Methods/disciplines you have used that have helped you learn and **obey** the Bible

- 1. Memorization/repetition
- 2. Bible Discovery Method
  - a. "What do we learn about God in this section?"
  - b. "What do we learn about humanity from the section?"
  - c. "How would your life change if you put this passage into practice?"
  - d. "Who do you know who needs to hear this lesson?"

# Resources for Studying God's Word

## Books/Websites to help study Gods Word:

- 1. How to Read a Book, Mortimer Adler (teaches how to read deeply, not necessarily the Bible but it is applicable to Bible reading. This book is fabulous.)
- 2. Reading the Bible Supernaturally, John Piper
- 3. Look at the Book, John Piper on <a href="http://www.desiringgod.org/labs">http://www.desiringgod.org/labs</a>
- 4. How to Study Your Bible, John MacArthur
- 5. Living by the Book, Howard Hendricks
- 6. Getting the Message, Dan Doriani
- 7. Women of the Word, Jen Wilkin

## Other books that influenced my love of the Word of God:

- 1. Knowing God, JI Packer
- According to Plan, Graeme Goldsworthy (especially helped me fall in love Jesus in the Old Testament)
- 3. Created for Commitment, Audrey Wetherell Johnson
- 4. Mere Christianity, CS Lewis

mont of the noise in our souls is generated by our attempts to control the uncontrollable. YSalm 131 Lord, please conquer my pride give me your peace. give me a heart of simplicity my gifts personality education hids husband house (satisfied in itself self absorbed Lord, take personal ambition and hillit. Ma howantu Judging with housedge |
woling potenting |
yestering have Competative belitting meddling in Yar Plans. lad forgive me for (hill laistran) Lord, help me see What things are too high for me. Heath BC Helpine not expend heedless Parhitum future energy on that which ! in things Currot understand. Make he content to live with myston Wi Cut (Jantasized great plan hids future my future gregs pretire Salvetia plans) you want with me. of frends - work How the Universe Spins Why suffering applications: Maria, obey today. Do not think of tamorrow, only today. Love Whoever you interact with watch your words, encourage. Four on things that are tree, honest, pure, lovely just aggood report How will I do When the Suffering doesn't stop?

my heart is not satisfied a happy with itself mp into trying to plan or solve things that are synd my comprehension. Triviples P. I am finite I am a sinner I am mable to solve (control plan many things. P. god knows they heart P. Grd knows my abilities & my limits. teeling Superior to others = Sin P. Seeling Satisfied with myself = sin P. Seehing accoracles = P. Don't become elated When others approved me. P. Hoppiness, Well-being 15 not Others View of me Compoting wothers = Sin tows on obedience to god. P. Irust god & obey. Focus on that Nant concern yourself with the future after all: We are no bodies and he have come of nobodies. We all trace our line up to a gardener who lost his place through stealing his Master's fruit - and that is farthest we can possibly go Charles Spurgeon

Thesday June 23, 2015 Psalm 131 2. Surely (hot worried or questioning) this is a charge Land, Cannot get my feelings under quieted United nor my heart guict, without la. become silent, culm Iteo me! temportable growns qu'et, peacepul)
reaned child Lord, continue rests (relax, refresh or recover strength) things hot scheming, pulling werdy resting grid. against it's mother Lard, I promy that my soul will be relace The a breamed child a strong, no matter What drumstances With in he. Comenny Way. Interpretationhave gotten my feelings under control and quieted my inner Seef. I am peaceful & Calm the a braned child laying in it's man's Chest to refresh a recover Strength. They Inner sey is resting peacefully within he.

P. God will grow me by taking away the things I think ! Contline without. Principles aw the Lord's help P-I must work to quiet my inner self. I must do it. P- It is important that excercize self control When my feelings are involved P- god wants my sail to be quiet a calm P- It is possible to have one's inner self relaxed. represhed. P- Circumstances must not dictate my Inner sails behavior. application - How will I griet my Soul, my heart? Haw will I wear off of my perfectionist, obsessiveness? than will I stop controling & manipulating? Needing to share my opinions (thoughts = indiet spirit Jord. Stress, the past, hurto, the preview my only- wild, strong-villed, manipolating, heart and sal need a maheaver. I want to be like you. I want to please you with a guict, Gentle, Calm, relaxed, represhed, Strong Inner now I can not do this mahener on my own. I heed you to do the work. I give you had Inner and outer self. Make the over to plensing to you I tered through the hands of god. P. The miment you stop wanting things to be your ward! you will be free of much warry & concern.

#### **Knowing God**

John 17:3 NAS <u>This is eternal life</u>, <u>that they may know You</u>, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Eternal life is described here as a relationship with God. The more we know God while in this life, the more we have "heaven on earth".

Prov 9:10 ESV The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

To know God is more than having head knowledge of some facts about Him. It is standing in awe of Him and having a relationship with Him

1John 2:12-14 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Phil 3:8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the <u>surpassing value of knowing</u> Christ Jesus my Lord,

#### 10 that I may know Him

Hosea 6:6 NAS For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, And <u>in the knowledge of God</u> rather than burnt offerings.

2 Pet 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Col 1:9b-10 we have not ceased to pray for you and to <u>ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding</u>, <u>10</u> so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work <u>and</u> increasing in the knowledge of God;

Jer 9:23-24 Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; 24 but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.

What should you specifically be meditating on as you read God's Word? Briefly:

- 1. What does this scripture reveal about the nature of God, and what should my response be to that?
  - a. Is there something to praise God for?
  - b. Is there something to thank God for?
- 2. Is there an example to follow?
- 3. Is there a sin of mine revealed I need to confess?
- 4. Is there a sin to be avoided?
- 5. Is there a promise to claim?
- 6. Is there any command to obey?
- 7. Are there any conditions to meet?
- 8. Is there any challenge to face?
- 9. Is there any verse to memorize?
- 10. Is there a prayer for me to repeat?
- 11. Are there related verses that enhance my understanding of this passage (look up cross references).

(Modified from John MacArthur)

John 8:24b for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

John 8:30 As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him.

8:45 But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.

8:58-59 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." <u>59</u> Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

8:31-32 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

32 NIV Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

8:36 If therefore the Son shall make you free, you will be free indeed.

2 Pet 2:19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

One is free, therefore, not when he can do what he wishes to do, but when he wishes to do and can do what he should do.

Experience gained by fearing the Lord is wisdom. Experience gained by disobeying God is slavery

Jer 6:14 NET They offer only superficial help for the harm my people have suffered. They say, 'Everything will be all right!' But everything is not all right!

Jer 23:16-18 Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you. They are leading you into futility; They speak a vision of their own imagination, Not from the mouth of the LORD. 17 "They keep saying to those who despise Me, 'The LORD has said, "You will have peace"; And as for everyone who walks in the stubbornness of his own heart, They say, 'Calamity will not come upon you.' 18 "But who has stood in the council of the LORD, That he should see and hear His word? Who has given heed to His word and listened?

8:37b NIV Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word.

8:43-44a Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.

#### **Memorizing scripture**

#### A. Why?

#### 1. It pleases God

Prov 22:18 NIV for it is pleasing when you keep them in your heart and have all of them ready on your lips.

Prov 3:1,3-4NAS My son, <u>do not forget my teaching</u>, But let <u>your heart keep my</u> commandments;

<u>3</u> Do not let kindness and truth leave you; <u>Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. <u>4</u> So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man.</u>

#### 2. It is commanded

Josh 1:8 NET This law scroll must not leave your lips! You must memorize it day and night so you can carefully obey all that is written in it. Then you will prosper and be successful.

Prov 6:21 ESV Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck.

Number 15 38-39 NIV "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'Throughout the generations to come you are to make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel. You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the Lord, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by going after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes.

Prov 7:1 NAS My son, keep my words And treasure my commandments within you.

Col 3:16a ESV Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,

#### 3. It was intended.

Some of Psalms are acrostics- Ps 111,112, 119

#### 4. To grow in your knowledge of God

Prov 2:1 NET My child, if you receive my words, and store up my commands within you,... 5 then you will understand how to fear the Lord, and you will discover knowledge about God.

#### 5. When done with the right attitude it transforms us

Prov 6:20-23ESV My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching. Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,

Rom 12:2 NET Do not be conformed to this present world, <u>but be transformed</u> by the renewing of your mind,

When God's law is in our hearts, it is in the right place. There it becomes a guide for anyone saved by grace, a guide for our affections, a device by which we demonstrate our gratitude to God for His gracious salvation. In the head, God's law may puzzle; on the back, it burdens; in the heart, it upholds. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." Charles Spurgeon

"All Bible memory is valuable...I believe in the power of the indwelling Word of God to solve a thousand problems before they happen, and to heal a thousand wounds after they happen, and to kill a thousand sins in the moment of temptation, and to sweeten a thousand days with the "drippings of the honeycomb."

John Piper

## 6. To help us keep our minds focused on the things above

Col 3:2 ESV Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Phil 4:8 ESV Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

#### 7. Aids in the effectiveness of prayer.

John 15:7 ESV If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

As our mind is transformed by the Word, our prayers will line up with the will of God. Having God's promises on our lips and in our hearts likewise enhances our prayers

#### 8.To help keep you from sinning

Ps 119:11NAS I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Ps 37:31NET The law of their God controls their thinking; their feet do not slip.

Ps 119:133NIV Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.

Ps 119:59 NAS I considered my ways and turned my feet to Your testimonies.

"This Book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this Book." D L Moody

"This book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book. In fact, you are either in the Word and the Word is conforming you to the image of Jesus Christ, or you are in the world and the world is squeezing you into its mold."

Howard Hendricks

#### 9. For your comfort/peace

Ps 119:50 NAS This is my comfort in my affliction, That Your word has revived me.

Jer 15:16 NET As your words came to me I drank them in, and they filled my heart with joy and happiness because I belong to you.

#### 10. Encouragement of others

Prov 12:25 NET Anxiety in a person's heart weighs him down, but <u>an encouraging word</u> brings him joy.

Prov 15:23 NAS A man has joy in an apt answer, And how delightful is a timely word!

Prov 25:11-12 NAS like apples of gold in settings of silver Is <u>a word spoken in right</u> <u>circumstances</u>. Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is a wise reprover to a listening ear.

#### 11. Enhance your worship

Col 3:16 ESV <u>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly</u>, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

At least personally, my worship is enhanced when I recognize the scriptural references in the lyrics of songs

#### 12. Enhance your love for God's Word

Ps 119:97 ESV Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

**13. Counseling/correction** It is good to always attach a scripture(s) onto counsel or correction- make it clear it doesn't matter what you think is right, but what God's Word states is right! Don't worry if you don't have a Scripture verse ready for every questionit's an open book test! And, after you prepare an answer the first time, you are set the next time that issue comes up.

Col 3:16 ESV Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, <u>teaching and admonishing</u> one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Col 4:6 ESV Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

2 Tim 3:16 ESV All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, <u>for reproof</u>, <u>for correction</u>, and <u>for training in righteousness</u>,

Prov 6:20-23 ESV My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching. Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the <u>reproofs of discipline are the way of life</u>,

**14.** To keep your mind focused "on things above"- even if you are forgetting more verses than you are memorizing, the process of memorizing keeps your mind focused on the things above- not on the things of the earth. If done with the right attitude it is a form of "praying without ceasing".

Col 3:2 ESV Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Phil 4:8 NAS Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

# **B.** Motivation for memorizing verses:

## To Glorify God!

1 Cor 10:31ESV So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

#### Therefore:

- 1. Do not count verses (this feeds pride, glorifies self)
- 2. Always be on guard that you are not using memorized verses to glorify self- "how much you know".
- 3. Memorize several verses on humility and pride
- 4. Have an accountability partner slap you on the side of the head if scripture memorization is making you prideful.
- 5. Do it with a joyful heart, not out of a feeling of legalistic drudgery. If you don't have a joyful heart about it- pray that God would change that.

#### C. Excuses for not memorizing verses

#### 1. "I don't have a good memory"

Satan would love for you to think that your memory is not good enough to memorize scripture. He would love for you to think about others who seem to be able to memorize better than you and so decide it is not for you.

Absolutely, different people have different abilities to memorize, but <u>memorizing</u> <u>scripture is primarily dependent on the **decision** to memorize, not the ability to memorize. What is your decision?</u>

Even if it is only 1 verse a week, start now- in 5 years you will have memorized more than 250 verses!

#### 2. "I don't have time"

This is another <u>excuse</u> Satan would love you to believe See below- "when to memorize"

#### D. What verses to memorize

If you want to start slowly, the 2 shortest verses are:

John 11:35 Jesus wept.

1 Thes 5:16 Rejoice always.

And the shortest chapter Chapter Ps 117

- 1. What verses God is placing on you heart- from your daily readings, a sermon you heard, a scriptural reference in a book you are reading. If you are reading scripture daily and regularly listening to speakers as described below, the problem won't be what verses to memorize, but which ones to memorize first- therefore have a waiting list!
- 2. Scripture references that answer a question your child or someone else asked. You may not have had a reference the first time asked, but you will have the next time.
- 3. Key verse(s) that are central in explaining topics that frequently come up. There may be more verses on that topic than you can memorize, but you can remember one and then in your Bible have the other references written down next to the verse you memorized- so the one verse you memorized can lead you to several on that topic.
- 4. Plans- there are scripture memory plans that guide you through verses to cover a variety of areas. These can be good, but I personally am much more excited to memorize something God has placed on my heart than what a "plan" has. (But I realize God can work through well thought out plans).

#### E. When to memorize

Walks (if by yourself or your dog, not when your spouse is trying to talk to you)

Driving (Not a good time to be ready new verses word for word, but a good time for review)

Standing in line at a store

Exercising

Yard work

Cooking

Other?

# F. Practical tips

1. What to write it on

3x5s (or half 3x5s)

Computer

Include related verses, contrasting verses, significance of verse, etc

2. How many?

More at first, less as time goes on so you can review

- 3. Review regularly
- 4. Parts of verses are OK, multiple consecutive verses, chapters Remember context- don't take out of context and misapply
- 5. Different versions? I memorize most in the version of the Bible I use most, but if another good version makes the point I need to have in my heart better, I memorize that version, and write the different version in my Bible.

#### 1. Basic Facts:

- OT was originally written in two languages, Hebrew and Aramaic (portions of Ezra and Daniel) from the years 1500 to 400 BC.
- The NT was originally written in *Koine* Greek from the years 40 to 100 AD.
- We do not have any original writing (autographa).
- All transmissions of the Bible were handwritten until the invention of the printing press in 1450's.
- The most readily available writing materials were stone, papyri, and parchment/vellum. Later (2<sup>nd</sup> century BC) the codex was invented.
- Manuscripts were subject to wear and tear, and it is therefore unlikely that nay would survive.
- We do not have many manuscripts of the OT that date before 900 AD.
- Transmission of the text was an extremely difficult task.
- 2. Textual Criticism: Science of reconstructing the original text of the Scriptures based upon the available manuscript evidence.

#### Copyist errors?

- Many times there were errors made by the scribes who copied both OT and the NT. There are more than 300,000 copyist errors in the NT alone.
- The different readings among the manuscripts are called *variants*.
- These errors are worked out through a process called *text criticism*.
- Text criticism is looked down upon by some fundamentalists who believe that it amounts to tampering with the text.
- Textual criticism is necessary to discover original readings.
- 99% of the variants make no theological difference.
- Of the 1 % that do, none affect any major doctrine.

#### Kinds of *Unintentional* Errors:

- 1. Mistaken letter similar looking letters were sometimes interchanged.
- 2. Homophony Substitution of similar sounding words.
- 3. Dittography A letter or word that was written twice rather than once.
- 4. Fusion Incorrect division of words. (e.g. GODISNOWHERE)
- 5. Homoioteleuton An omission caused by two words that have similar endings.
- 6. Metathesis Reversal of order of two words. (Christ Jesus, Jesus Christ). Kinds of *Intentional* Errors:
- 1. Changes in grammar or spelling and modernization of language. (e.g. updating in language would be spelling of "Rameses" Gen 47:11).
- 2. Harmonization Often the scribe felt at liberty to change apparent discrepancies (Lk 23:38 and Jn 19:19).
- 3. Theological changes and/or additions I Jn 5:7-8 compare KJV with NAS.
- 4. Liturgical Additions Matt 6:13 addition of "For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

## Basic Principles of Text Criticism:

- 1. The shorter reading is normally preferred.
- 2. The harder reading is normally preferred.
- 3. The earlier the occurrence of the variant reading adds weight to its authenticity.
- 4. The wider the geographical distribution of the variant reading adds weight to its authenticity.
- 5. The number of representative manuscripts that contain the variant reading adds weight, but only to the degree that its representation is early and/or wide spread.

#### **Old Testament**

- 1. How close do our copies come to the original?
- 2. How many copies do we have?

#### Manuscripts:

- Ben Asser Family (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries) a Masoretic family of scribes. Cairo Codex (Codex C) written in AD 950. Leningrad Codes (Codex L) written in AD 1008. (BHS) Alppo manuscript (Codex A) written before AD 940.
- 2. Septuagint (LXX) Greek translation of the OT translated around 300-150 BC. Earliest copy AD 400.
- 3. Targums: Aramaic paraphrases of the OT after AD 200.
- 4. Dead Sea Scrolls: Found in 1948. Contained copies or portions of every book in the OT except Esther. Full copy of Isaiah dating back to 135-200 BC.

# **Bibliology**

# **Reclaiming the Mind**

#### Inspiration

Questions to ask?

- 1. What does it mean that the Bible is inspired?
- 2. How did inspiration occur?
- 3. How does one's view of inspiration affect their interpretation?

#### Terms:

- 1. Revelation: The act whereby God reveals truth to mankind through both special revelation (Scripture, prophets, etc.) and natural revelation (nature, conscience, etc.).
- 2. Inspiration: The act whereby God guided the writers of Scripture, giving them His words while fully utilizing the human element within man to produce the Scriptures.
- 3. Illumination: The act whereby God enlightens people to understand His revelation and its relevance to their lives.

II Tim. 3:16-17. "God breathed" 2 Peter 1:20-21

#### Theories of inspiration:

- 1. Natural Belief that certain people were extremely gifted through their natural God-given abilities to write Scripture (100% man).
- 2. Illumination Belief that the Holy Spirit moved within certain individuals to write above their natural capacity (90% man, 10% God)
- 3. Partial: Belief that some Scripture is inspired, namely, that which is profitable for doctrine, matters of "faith and practice", but not all is inspired. Matters of history and science are not included because they are irrelevant to God's purpose. (50% man, 50% God.
- 4. Degree: Belief that all Scripture is inspired, but some passages are more inspired than others. (90% God, 10% man)
- 5. Mechanical Dictation: God simply used the hand of man to passively write His words. (100% God)
- 6. Verbal Plenary: All Scripture is inspired by God who utilized the human element within man to accomplish this without error. (100% man, 100% God).

  Verbal extends to the very words of Scripture, not just teachings.

  Plenary Extends to everything in the Bible, not just parts that speak to matters of faith and practice.

#### **Proving Inspiration**

Evidences for the Bible's inspiration:

- 1. Self-attestation claims inspiration in many places, in many different ways.
- 2. Uniqueness 66 books made up of different genres, written by more than 40 different authors from all walks of life, on three different continents in three languages over 1,500 years, all writing to different circumstances dealing with different issues. It has been translated into more languages than any other document, book, or writing.

#### 3. Historicity:

- Internal Evidences:
  - Honesty Bible records both failures and successes of its heroes.
  - Harmony Despite multiple compositions from different authors, etc. it has remarkable consistency that evidences one guiding Author who superintended the writings.
  - Testable extraordinary claims thousands of historical claims of extraordinary events (miracles), giving extensive details of time, location, witnesses, etc. which means they are testable through normal historical means.
  - Lack of motive for fabrication Gospel writers, for instance, did not gain anything but persecution for their beliefs.

#### • External Evidences:

- Preservation most well-attested book in all of ancient history. No book has the object of more scrutiny and passionate attack than the Bible. Yet it still is the best-selling book of all time.
- Archaeology archaeological and historical finds have proved the Bible to be historically accurate.
- Extrabiblical attestation Over 39 extrabiblical sources attest to more than 100 facts regarding the life and teachings of Jesus (e.g. Josephus, Pliny the Younger, Suetonius, Tactitus, Thallus, Lucian, etc.).
- Survival in a hostile environment There would have been many people who could have brought forth evidence that their stories were lies. Yet, nothing.

# Inerrancy

Ouestions to ask:

- 1. Can the Scriptures err and Christianity still be true?
- 2. Can the Scriptures err and still be inspired?
- 3. Do the Scriptures contain inconsistencies?
- 4. How do we explain the apparent contradictions?

#### Terms:

Inerrancy – doctrinal teaching that the Bible *in the autographa* are true in all that they teach, and thus without error.

Infallibility – doctrinal teaching sometimes used synonymously with inerrancy, that the Bible cannot fail in matters of faith and practice.

#### Arguments for Inerrancy:

1. If the Bible is "God-breathed", representing the voice of God, and God is without error, and then the Scriptures are without error.

Premise 1: God is truthful and therefore beyond error

Premise 2: God is the ultimate author of Scripture

Conclusion: Scripture is truthful and therefore beyond error.

- 2. If the Bible contains historical and/or scientific error, then its entire theological message is placed in jeopardy. Who has the ability to judge what is accurate and what is not?
- 3. Inerrancy is inherently tied to absolute authority. Any denial of inerrancy produces a slippery slope in which the one who denies this doctrine is open to deny the authority of Scripture on any matter.
- 4. The Bible does not contain any errors.

Premise: The Bible does not contain any errors.

Conclusion: The Bible is inerrant.

Premise: Everything the Bible says is true according to the intention to which it was written.

Conclusion: The Bible is true or inerrant.

#### Objections to Inerrancy:

1. Since the Scriptures were written by man, we should expect them to accurately reflect the characteristics in all men which is error. To deny error in the Bible is to deny the humanity of Scripture. "To err is human"

Premise 1: Human beings err

Premise 2: The Bible is a human book

Conclusion: The Bible errs

- 2. Inerrancy only applies to the original manuscripts. Since we do not have the original manuscripts, it is irrelevant to talk about inerrancy.
- 3. The Bible contains errors, therefore, the Bible is not inerrant.

#### Response to Objections:

1. While it is true that the Bible is a human work, and humans often err, it is also true that it is a divine work, and God does not err. It is not necessary to err to be human. If that is true than -

Premise 1: Human beings err

Premise 2: Christ is a human being

Conclusion: Christ errs.

2. While true that we do not have the original manuscripts, this does not invalidate the doctrine of inerrancy: it simply makes textual criticism all the more

- important. Through the science of textual criticism we learn that the Bible is preserved with 95% accuracy and that we have access to the originals through diligent study and research. (see corollary paper)
- 3. When the original context and intention is understood, taking into account the science of textual criticism, all alleged errors are shown to be based upon either faulty hermeneutics or scribal errors.

#### Facts about Inerrancy:

- 1. The Bible does use accommodating language (e.g. the sun went down).
- 2. The Bible does use round numbers.
- 3. The Bible does summarize (e.g. Sermon on the Mount is longer in Matthew than in Luke).
- 4. Consideration must be made of the genre of the individual books.
- 5. The Bible does use free quotations.

Ipsissima Verba: "the very words" – Expresses the often-misunderstood assumption that the authors of Scripture always recorded the exact words of those who spoke, without paraphrasing.

Ipsissima Vox: "The very voice" This expresses the understanding that the writers of Scripture would often give summaries or paraphrase the words of those who spoke, not necessarily the exact words.

#### Canon

**Community Canon Model** – Something officially or authoritatively imposed upon certain literature.

Dates canon at time of official recognition by the church.

**Intrinsic Canon Model** – Canon was not determined, but rather recognized. Dates canon at time of original divine authorship.

- CCM defined as a set of writings that are selected by the community as a standard. Accordingly, canonicity is viewed as imposed upon writings which do not necessarily merit canonicity. Thus authority resides in the community to select the writings that are in the canon.
  - 1. Canonicity determined by the authority of tradition. e.g. R.C.. Council of Carthage (397 AD) and then Council of Trent (1546).
  - 2. Adaptable canon of the community in which canonicity is selected for the specific community. Canon is flexible to whatever the needs of a specific community may be. Appeals to contemporary consensus of a given community so books not considered authoritative when written but later when the books were determined to be canonical by the community.
    - a. This view holds to a three-stage development of OT canon.
      - 1) Pentateuch "canon 1" by 400 BC.
      - 2) Prophets "canon 1" by 200 BC.
      - 3) Writings late as 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. "canon 2"
    - b. NT is also divided into "canon 1" and "canon 2" Canon 1 is pre-Council of Carthage.

In this model canon is closed by the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD.

ICM – defined as canon based upon merit of individual books. Books of the bible were inherently canonical, even if they were not universally recognized. (Just as Jesus was the Messiah even if not recognized as such) So books would be intrinsically canonical independent of extrinsic recognition.

Redemptive-Historical Approach – locates canonical authority in the redemptive-historical context and function of scripture. Scripture is a "product of God's revelatory activity in the history of redemption." Jesus Christ and his unique, unrepeatable act of redemption are the Context and ground of NT canonical writings which themselves are an integral part of the history of that once-for-all-redemption. It is this place of redemption which gives the NT canon its authority. Thus canonical authority is bestowed by divine revelation directly through incarnate God, independent of human recognition.

OT canon – three part development of recognition (not determination). Lk 24:44. (cp. Matt 23:35; Lk 11:51 – from martyr to martyr). Jesus probably did hold to a

closed canon and passed that on to his followers. Josephus (70 AD) writes that the OT books were held in such high regard that "no one has been so bold as to add anything to them, to take anything from them, or to make any change in them."

NT canon – Originated with spoken words of Christ and his acts as the special revelation of God on earth. (Lk 1:1-3) Words of Jesus were given authority in the NT (I Cor 7:10,17; I Thess 4:15; Mt 28:18) and the words of Jesus were already viewed as Scripture by the Apostolic Fathers. Other NT books were collected and preserved. Muratorian Fragment testifies to the preservation of the NT canon.

# **Criteria of Canonicity**

- 1. **Prophecy and Apostolicity** relates to authorship. God is the author who uses anointed humans. In *Against Apion* 1.8 Josephus points out a clear succession from Moses to Prophets. Also seen in I & II Chron. Jesus considered the OT to be prophetic (Mt 5:17). For NT canon apostolicity is required. (Acts 2:42; Eph 2:20; Mat 18:18) Caution on this criterion in that historical certainty is often beyond our reach.
- 2. Antiquity Not that older is better necessarily but rather, for OT canon, dating is important in relation to the cessation of prophecy after the time of Artaxerxes (450 BC). Limits canon to books written before this time. For NT books written during the time of the apostles. FF Bruce writes that "the four Gospels belong to the decades between 60 and 100, and it is to these decades too that all (or nearly all) the other NT writings are to be assigned."
- **3. Consistency, Congruity, and Continuity** Basically any new revelation agree with previous revelation. Thus, the Decalogue was written by the finger of God (Ex 31:18). Also a very important hermeneutical principle new light from God will not contradict old light (Deut 13:1-3; Mal 3:6; Is 8:20; Mt 5:17-18;24:35). This principle alone almost rules out all of the non-canonical literature in existence.
- **4. Self-Authentication by Divine Purpose** True canonical merit lies in the providence of God in the revelation, inspiration, preservation, and recognition of the canon. (Not every book believed to be inspired was considered canonical! Bible records prophetic books that are not part of the canon. E.g. Shepherd of Hermas)
- **5. Notable Corollary** Usage is another attribute. Prime importance to the CCM though not with the ICM however data regarding usage is an

important historical referent for confirmation of canonicity. (The entire NT canon except for 11 verses could be reconstructed from the church fathers of the second to fourth centuries)

## Why is the canon closed?

- Revelation contained in OT and NT contains all the necessary revelation of God's activity in the history of salvation. (Jn 21:25) The NT tells us that Jesus fulfilled the OT as the complete revelation (Mt 5:17) and Revelation 22:18-19 says that nothing should be added or taken away.
- Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into "all truth" (Jhn 16:13). Therefore, if we have all authentic apostolic writings, inspired by the Holy Spirit, along with the OT we have all canonical revelation.
- Prophecy in NT contains the eschaton and there is no need for further covenant revelation.

**Argument from Divine Revelation** – In actuality, if God has not revealed Himself in any reliable manner then, regardless of what books we may choose to canonize, we would be doing little more than a projected anthropology. If, on the other hand, God has revealed information about Himself, and inspired messengers to record that revelation, then it is our responsibility to recognize that revelation.

If you hold to the ICM model than the canon merits the application of: *Sola Scriptura* – signifies that the Bible and the Bible alone is the correct foundation for theology.

Prima Scriptura – believes the Bible is the supreme truth.

Tota Scriptura – believes that the whole Bible is to be taken into account for any belief. (discounts the "canon within a canon")

Thus the canon of Scripture is the *norma normans* (authoratative standard) which consists of books of divine revelation appointed by God to serve as an authoritative rule of faith and practice.

It's also the *norma normata* (recognized standard) since these books are recognized by the community to be prophetic or apostolic, of proper antiquity, having consistency, congruity, and continuity, and self-authenticating.