

Reading the Bible

Discipleship 201 - Session 4

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:1-4

Introduction: God's plan for us is that we enter into a loving relationship with Him. This privilege is made available to us because of what Christ, the Word of God, has done. God continues to speak His Word to us in the Holy Scriptures, and this Word is powerful enough to transform our beliefs and actions and relationships.

What is the Bible?: It is the _____ of God

A. In _____, God did not pull out an erector set *In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. Genesis 1:1-3*

B. The Word from God is not only the power of God, it is _____.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. John 1:1-4.

- C. The Bible is one of the ways God _____ to us. (II Timothy 3:16, 17) The other ways include:
- _____ (Hebrews 1:2)
 - the _____ (Matthew 26: 26, 27)
 - _____ (Romans 1:19, 20)

Why is it that even Christians read their horoscopes, seek their future from fortune tellers, and turn to the occult? We have a direct and un-convoluted Word from God!

Who wrote the Bible?

- A. The Bible is _____ % the work of humans
- It is the proclamation of the _____ about God
 - It was written by many authors, compiled by multiple editors and revised by many redactors
 - It took a _____ for it to be in its current form
- B. The Bible is _____ % inspired by God
- The Bible is the meeting of the human & _____
 - To be inspired means to be God _____

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. (II Timothy 3:16, 17)

Are there errors in the Bible?

- A. Many passages are contested and hard to _____ (II Peter 3:16)
- B. In some passages, the _____ contribution predominates
- C. There are mistakes in _____, _____, and _____; yet, the message is of God is proclaimed in, with and through the Bible