Life in Christ: Session Two

Words of Life – The Bible

**OVERVIEW:** Identify the messengers chosen by God to speak His Word. The Word of God as primarily the good news of what God has done for people throughout the ages. How the Bible came to be. The Bible as the inspired and inerrant Word of God. The purpose and authority of Scripture.

**Knowing God Through His Word**

*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+timothy+3&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29851a)*] you learned it****15****and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.****16****All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,****17****that the man of God[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+timothy+3&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29854b)*] may be complete, equipped for every good work.* 2nd Timothy 3:14-17

**The Purpose of Scripture:**

 It is through the words of God in the Bible that He reveals Himself as both the Lord of all and as the Savior Jesus Christ. Martin Luther refers to the Scriptures as the “cradle of Christ.” Christ is the treasure that lies within the Scriptures. Therefore, the Scriptures reveal many and specific qualities of God to us:

* Transcendent:
* Immanent:
* Immutable:
* Omnipotent:
* Omniscient:
* Omnipresent:
* Goodness:
* Love:
* Grace:
* Mercy:

Therefore, the purpose of Scripture is:

1. Reveal the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God.
2. Reveal the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of salvation.
3. Reveal the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of our faith.
4. Reveal the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**The Authority of Scripture**

 The word “inspired” literally means “God breathed.” When God breathes into something, He gives it life. He breathed life into the nostrils of Adam and gave him life. God also breathes into Scripture and gives it life.

 Genesis 2:7 =

 Hebrews 4:12 =

Why is it important to agree that the Bible is the Word of God?

**How we God the Bible**

**Oral Transmission**

1. A reliable and valid means:
2. An expression of faith:

**Written Words – Old Testament (First Testament)**

1. The Pentateuch:
2. Scribes:
3. Kings:
4. Prophets:

There was specific criteria the writings had to meet for inclusion into the Canon of Scripture, or Old Testament:

1. The Council of Jamnia (98 AD)
2. Had to be written prior to 400 BC
3. Was written primarily in the Hebrew language
4. The contents met standards of consistent character & congruency

**Written Words – New Testament (Second Testament)**

1. Dates and timing of the writings
2. An expression of faith:
3. The Council of Nicea (325 AD)
	1. Widely used among the churches
	2. Written by an eyewitness
	3. Consistent with:
		1. The Old Testament writings
		2. The revealed character of God
		3. The teachings of Jesus Christ

**Archaeological Evidence is Encouraging**

While we do not use archaeological evidence to determine the books that are included in the Scripture and certainly do not use archaeological evidence to determine the truth and reliability of God’s Word, it is amazing to note that some of the data uncovered via archaeology is consistent with the information included in Scripture.

In 1947, the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, it is a delightful discovery to see that they verified the words of the Old Testament (rather than cause questions and doubts). The book of Isaiah in particular has been a tremendous treasure. In one fell swoop, the date of existing Old Testament manuscripts was backed up 1200 years. After examination and comparison of current copies of the Old Testament with those that predated anything before by 12 centuries, there were literally no meaningful discrepancies.

**Why Does This Matter**

Ultimately, we cannot prove the Bible to be true or actual words from God. But we can find assurance and confidence because the external evidence supports the internal claims. It is one more example of the tension God has designed for us to live in. Is there evidence that supports a verdict? Are we called to live by faith and not by sight?

*And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven.****2****He answered them,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+16&version=ESV" \l "fen-ESV-23674a" \o "See footnote a)] “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’****3****And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.****4****An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.” So he left them and departed.*  (Matthew 16:1-4)

*Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin,[*[*d*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+20&version=ESV#fen-ESV-26880d)*] was not with them when Jesus came.****25****So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”*

*Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”****27****Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.”****28****Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”****29****Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”* (John 20:24-29)

**The Bible has Integrity**

Peter:

Paul:

The Bible is completely honest about who we are and our condition. It is also extremely clear about God, His character and His actions. We see all of our warts, blemishes and sins as well as God’s Holy character and perfect actions.

**What about the Creeds & Confessions**

The Apostles’ Creed:

The Nicene Creed:

Lutheran Confessions:

**For Further Study and Discussion**

A simple acronym (S.O.S.) has been used to distinguish two main purposes of the Bible:

1. Show Our Sin
2. Show Our Savior

Using the following Scripture passages, identify which SOS is utilized:

Matthew 5:48 =

Matthew 7:7-11 =

Matthew 9:2 =

Matthew 13:44 =

Romans 2:1 =

Romans 3:10-12 =

Romans 3:22-24 =

Romans 8:1 =

Summarize the purpose of the Bible.

Why is it important to read the Bible in light of this purpose?