

Lesson No. 8

THE BIBLE

How we got it
How it got in present form
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
How to study the Bible.

next week: The Prayer Life of the Christian

Bible --- derived biblos from Phoenician town in Greece of the same name, meant papyrus --- kind of parchment upon which they wrote. Literally means little parchments.

OT: law, history, poetry, prophets --- LAW and PROPHETS
Jesus said in Matthew "On these two commandments hang all the law and prophets."

700 years between old and new testament.

NT: Gospels written last -- History: Acts, epistles, prophecy. First written was probably I and II Thess. Last probably book of John and Revelation. Probably written around 90 AD.

Epistles: Each of them deal with church problem --- Corinth-- "worst" of all, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Galatians, Colossians (church problems) all except Ephesians (this letter circulated to all churches) and the general epistle of James, etc., were written to churches with problems. They say absolutely nothing about the life of Jesus - they are concerned with death and resurrection. Shows us the beginning of the church. The theme was not the perfect life that Jesus lived, etc., but the heart of Christianity was his death, burial, resurrection. The last thing they did was write the four gospels - because those that knew Jesus (walked with him) were dying out. --- These were used in the "New Members Class". The present His life only to tell us of His death. Gospels not written in the form we have them today.

OT, all except Daniel written in Hebrew --- Daniel probably in Aramaic.

NT, written in Greek.

Different versions sometimes disagree on minor points. Greek - no punctuation.

About 16th century ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ chapter divisions (sometimes they come in the wrong place --- Isaiah 52:13 through 53 -- there ought not to be a chapter division there.) These things are minor -- do not effect faith, etc.

Original manuscripts began to wear out, they had to be copied over. Sometimes somebody would make a mistake in copying. There are imperfections in the Bible we have today.

As
HEBREW LETTERS - if has dot over it, makes the word different. If the person ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ would copy he would make the word different, ~~XX XXXXX~~ --- if there was a spot of dirt on the paper -- he would translate the word incorrectly.

OT: 30,000 people were killed --- NT it will say 3,000--- theory of inspiration ought to include that not only did God make original manuscripts infallible but protects it, guide the translating, copying, etc.

II. HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Edgar Goodspeed's How Come the Bible

You cannot grow as a Christian without consistent and proper Bible study. If you had to give up ~~ONE~~ one: prayer or Bible study --- inseparable. I Peter chapter 2 - "as newborn babes desire

Psalms 119 --- benefits of Bible study "taking heed unto thy word"

Six Basic Rules: (for studying the Bible)

(1) When you are FRESH and the mind is clear.

(2) SYSTEMATICALLY

Topical - look up every scripture in the Bible -- on the deity of Christ (this is not the best way, makes use of dangerous type of Bible study: proof-text Scripture pulled out of context. You can prove anything in the Bible by this method.

BEST --- one book at a time.

SBC daily Bible readings - don't like "jumping" from Deut. to Matthew.

People say, "I don't understand the Bible" -- no wonder, the way they read it -- staring in the middle --- how do you read other books?

Read SYSTEMATICALLY - start with 1:1. Write it out. Exegesis --- out of knowledge -- knowledge out of the Bible.

Write it out. Put down the thoughts that come to your mind as you read the Bible.

Jamison-Faussett-Brown - best one volume commentary on the Bible..

Read the chapter over and over and let it sink in before you look at commentary, etc. Then take second sheet of paper --- divide:

truths	'	practice
	;	
put down what it	'	Relate it to
teaches you --	'	me
	;	
doctrine	'	
precepts	'	
	;	
	'	

Phil. 2:1-11

(3) with VARIETY --- Use more than one version --- for meanings of words:

LET (we think of permission -- in 1600 it meant hinder)

SUFFER (then it meant allow)

KJ: Col 1:14 - "In whom we have redemption through his blood,"

REVISED STD VERSION; --- no blood --- not even in the Greek to begin with. Eph. 1:7 does

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say "through His blood"

WUEST - good study Bible.

- (4) EXPECTANTLY --- expect God to speak to you through that book.
- (5) PRAYERFULLY - you should never open it to study without asking the author, the Holy Spirit, to give you something to live by.
- (6) OBEDIENTLY ---- Say strange and unusual book --- illustration: Read Shakespeare and not do anything about what it says and it doesn't affect my understanding at all but when I read the Bible and it tells me certain things and I do not do them it becomes a closed book and I cannot understand it.

Grow in knowledge by study the Bible -- grow in grace by putting it into practice.