



THEOLOGY ESSENTIALS

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers, but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.”

~ Psalm 1:1-3 ~





Purpose

- Provide in-depth study of the Scriptures, theology, and important doctrines
- Increase your confidence and joy in the whole counsel of God
- Help you grow deep roots in the faith and further prepare you for discipleship and evangelistic opportunities



Meeting Times & Info

- Every other Wednesday, on non-Midweek Gathering weeks
- Begins at 7:00 pm
- Topic based on church survey
- Read chapter ahead of class
- email: info@redeemerkg.org or pastor.jim@redeemerkg.org
- <https://redeemerkg.org/theology-essentials/>

KNOWING

SCRIPTURE



THEOLOGY ESSENTIALS



Materials for class

- *Knowing Scripture*, R.C. Sproul
- Your Bible !!!
- Notebook and pen
- Band app (updated posted on Redeemer Band)



Lesson 1 - Why Study the Bible?

- From the Forward -

Satan's tactic: to undermine the Bible

1. Keep preachers from preaching and teaching it, people of God from reading it

2. Question the Bible's usefulness and reliability

Inspiration, Inerrancy, Revelation, Interpretation (consistent, clear)

- We need the Bible, and know how to interpret it!



Lesson 1 - Why Study the Bible?

- From the Preface -

“Although many of the issues have scholarly dimension. I have not been motivated by a desire to enter the academic debate concerning the science of hermeneutics. Rather my prime motivation is to offer basic, “common sense” guidelines to help serious readers study sacred scripture profitably.” (Sproul, *Knowing Scripture*, p14)



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

- 2 Myths
 - Bible is too difficult. Only skilled theologians with extensive training can handle Scripture.
 - The Bible is boring.
This says more about your preferences than the Bible.
“When people say the Bible is dull, it make me wonder why. Biblical characters are full of life...” (Sproul, *Knowing Scripture*, p17)



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

If we can read our phones or blogs, we can read the Bible.



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

- The Clarity of Scripture
 - 2LBCF 1.7 Of the Holy Scriptures, para 7

“All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all;¹² yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed and observed for salvation, are so clearly propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of ordinary means, may attain to a sufficient understanding of them.¹³”

¹² 2 Pet. 3:16

¹³ Ps. 19:7; Psalm 119:130a



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

- The Clarity of Scripture, 2 LBCF 1.7
 - There are difficult portions of Scripture
 - The essentials are clear so even unlearned (illiterate) may have sufficient understanding
 - Gained through ordinary means



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

- The Clarity of Scripture
 - “Biblical Christianity is not an esoteric religion. Its content is not concealed in vague symbols that require some sort of special “insight” to grasp... The Bible speaks of God in meaningful patterns of speech” (Sproul, *Knowing Scripture*, p19)
 - Doctrine of the clarity of Scripture is tied to doctrine of revelation. Is God a good communicator? Of course He is.
 - “There is enough brightness to illuminate the elect, and enough obscurity to humble them.” (Blaise Pascal)



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

- The Problem of Motivation
 - “The theme of this book is not how to read the Bible, but how to study the Bible. There is a great deal of difference between reading and studying.” (Sproul, *Knowing Scripture*, p20)
 - The problem is our negligence in studying the Bible
 - laziness / slothfulness (1 of 3 roots of sin, Karl Barth)
 - Not enough time? We make for what matters most to us.



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

- The Biblical Basis for Bible Study
 - “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”
Deuteronomy 6:4-9



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

- The Biblical Basis for Bible Study
 - “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom[a] you learned it 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. 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[b] may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
2 Timothy 3:14-17



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

**Every Christian
is a theologian.**



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

- The Bible as Revelation
 - “The Bible gives us information not available anywhere else.” (Sproul, *Knowing Scripture*, p26)
 - Won’t knowledge of salvation, faith, holiness, glory, true delight anywhere else. What we know of these things come from the Bible.
 - “Only God can provide us with an eternal perspective and speak to us with absolute and final authority.” (Sproul, *Knowing Scripture*, p27)



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

**Do we need to study
Scripture? Yes.**



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

- Some say:
 - Doctrines are not necessary... Well, doctrines are the way to grow in the faith, and they come from Scripture. “Can’t do what you don’t know. Can’t live out the faith if you don’t know how to live out the faith.”
 - Theology does not matter... Well, if you don’t know God you can’t know how to love him (as he defines how to love him) and obey him. Both are told in the Scriptures.
 - Just learn to love everybody... Well, only way to truly love anyone is to love them with the truth, which is only found in the Scriptures.
 - Know Jesus and know peace... Well, only way to know Jesus to know him through the Word (He is the Word), and in that you will know peace.



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

- Theory and Practice
 - Pragmatism: Truth is “that which works”
1st question “Does it work?”
Successful practical application...
 - “Where can we go to discover the ultimate test for our pragmatism? Here is where transcendent revelation is most crucial to our lives. Here is where the content of Scripture is most relevant for our practice. God alone can give us the final evaluation of the wisdom and value of our practices.” (Sproul, *Knowing Scripture*, p30)



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

- Theory and Practice
 - Theory matters. Theology matters.
Theory: “A supposition or system of ideas intended to explain something, especially one based on general principles independent of the thing to be explained.”
 - “People who despise theory (or theology) and call themselves practical are not wise. Those who concerns themselves only with short term goals may have big trouble when it comes to the very long run of eternity.” (Sproul, *Knowing Scripture*, p30)



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

**We do what we do
because we have theory.**



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

- The Sensuous Christian
 - Lives by their senses (feelings), rather than by their understanding.
 - It feels right, not it IS right.
 - Don't need to study the Bible. They experience God. They equate childlike-faith to ignorance. Well, Romans 11:25; 1:13; 1 Thess 4:13... and others (Apostle Paul says, "I don't want you ignorant, unaware, uniformed")
 - Our feelings should not dictate what we do. What we do should dictate our feelings.
 - Quote p31-33



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

**True happiness comes
from knowledge of God
in His Word.**



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

- The Mature Christian
 - “Inner feelings” are not the test of truth, Scripture is... **ALWAYS**
 - John 16:33
 - Happiness = obedience to God (which is found in His Word)
 - “Cannot love what you do not know.”
 - Your head feeds your heart. Your heart directs what you do.



Chapter 1 - Why Study the Bible?

Questions ???