

sermon  **SNAPSHOTS**

Bible



TRUTH

LOVE

Basics

Getting Started

fishers
Church of Christ

A Brief Overview of the Bible

Does the thought of digging into the Bible seem overwhelming to you? Well, don't be intimidated; it's not really that complicated! Would you like to take a brief guided tour of this grand book? Then read on!

40 writers, over 1600 years (1500BC - 100AD), 66 books, and ZERO errors!
(Why? 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic; New Testament in Greek

- Hence, the need for translations into other languages, including English
- There are NO inspired translations – each one has its merits and its faults
- Most recommended translations: KJV, NKJV, ASV, NASV, ESV, or HCSB

Two major divisions; and three subdivisions (2 Timothy 2:15, "rightly dividing")

The Old Testament -- 39 books, with a Jewish focus (Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:16) -
- it is the NT concealed

- **Historical** -- first 17 books (5 law, 12 history), Genesis - Esther
- **Prophetical** -- last 17 books (5 major, 12 minor), Isaiah - Malachi
- **Devotional** -- middle 5 books (wisdom), Job, Psalm, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

The New Testament -- 27 books, with a worldwide focus (Matthew 28:18-20) -- it is
the Old Testament revealed

- **Historical** -- first 5 books (Matthew – Acts) – a history of Christ and the early church
- **Prophetical** – last (Revelation) – vision of “things which must shortly take place” (1:1)
- **Devotional** -- middle 21 books (Romans- Jude): doctrinal problems & Christian duties

Major themes of the New Testament

- Christ -- Jewish hope (Matthew to Jews, Mark to Greeks, Luke to Gentiles, John is more “spiritual”)
- Salvation – Deliverance from sin (Acts: book of conversions & a history of the church)
- Church -- God's people (both universal and local; its work, worship, organization)
- Service -- Spiritual, moral, civil, domestic, economic, and social obligations
- Old/New Testament distinction – Two entire books are dedicated to this: Galatians & Hebrews

Things to remember when studying the New Testament

- You are "reading someone else's mail," thus you must take into account certain things...
- The context and background (see Galatians 5:2) – *it wasn't circumcision per se, but binding it religiously*
- The customs of the times (1 Timothy 5:9-10) – *foot washing was an ancient custom of hospitality*
- The idioms of language (notice: "not/but" in John 6:27; 1 Peter 3:3-4) – *the “but” qualifies the “not”*

In conclusion, the Bible tells us...

Who we are: God's image (Genesis 1:26-27)

Why we are here: God's servant (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

Where we are going: God's home (John 14:1-3)

-Lanny Smith

How God Teaches Us

The Christian religion is a teaching religion (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2). If that is true, then it is incumbent upon us to learn “how” teaching is done! This has a two-fold benefit. First, I will know how God teaches; then, I will know how to pass that on to others! Therefore, let’s ponder how the teaching process works.

Sometimes, God just states the facts

- Like “Sergeant Joe Friday” on “Dragnet,” we sometimes give “Just the facts, ma’am”
- **Ex:** “Sky is blue,” “Grass is green,” or “Water is wet,” “I went to town,” etc.
- *In the same way we would teach other folk, GOD often gives us “just the facts”*
- **Ex:** creation (Genesis 1:1); man in God’s image (Genesis 1:26-27); God is love (1 John 4:8)

Sometimes, God gives commandments

- Whether at home, work, or wherever, we often give commands for others to obey
- **Ex:** “Shut that door,” “Clean up your mess,” “Get back to work right now,” etc.
- *And just as we often command others, GOD often commands us to do certain things*
- **Ex:** “seek first” (Matthew 6:33); “Repent... and pray” (Acts 8:22); “abstain” (1 Thessalonians 4:1-3)

Sometimes, God shows us by example

- An example can send a vivid, “visual” lesson; a “demonstration” which we won’t soon forget!
- **Negative examples** – things we *should NOT do*: incest (1 Corinthians 5:1); frivolous lawsuits (1 Corinthians 6:1-2)
- **Positive examples** – show things that are *acceptable to DO*: give on the first day (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
- Otherwise, we must find “authorization.” *Thus, examples can restrict!* (limited by lack of info)

Sometimes, God simply implies things

- I do NOT refer to a “guess” or a “surmising”, but an implication that is “unavoidable” or “necessary”
- **Ex:** “*Any idiot knows the Bible teaches by implication*” (I didn’t call him an idiot; but implied it!)
- I submit that, without implication, NONE of the Bible can be applied to us! (Acts 2:38-39)
- **Ex:** a “place” to baptize or assemble is IMPLIED in passages like these: Acts 8:36 & Hebrews 10:25

What about when God says NOTHING?

- In truth “silence” is “the ABSENCE of information;” thus, it does not tell, show, or imply ANYTHING!
- **Ex:** ordering a hamburger says NOTHING about my desire for other menu items
- It MAY mean that I don’t want them, don’t like them, or can’t afford them – we just do not know!
- If the information is lacking, we simply cannot assume that something is OK (Hebrews 7:11-14)

What we have done here is simply show the “common sense” principles by which ALL teaching is done. Now let us use our God-given intellect to study, learn, and apply the words of the Bible to our own lives!



Sermon Snapshots are designed to improve your personal study life and presentation of spiritual topics to friends & neighbors in a simple and exciting manner!

Hopefully after your reading, you'll want to further enhance your knowledge on the subject and we can provide that through personal study, in-depth sermons on CD, or downloadable content on our website!

Times of Service

Sunday Worship: 10 am

Sunday Bible Study: 5 pm

Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

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