



The Brotherhood in Jesus Christ Bible Study Course is an extension program of the Church of God 7<sup>th</sup> Day by Siegfried Maywald  
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*Brotherhood  
in  
Jesus Christ*

*Bible Studies*

*Can the Bible be trusted?*

*Lesson # 2*

## Is the Bible the Word of God or the Word of Man?

The Bible is not only a simple book, but also a collection of 66 individual books. The literary content includes history, poetry, drama, prophecy, philosophy, science and inspirational reading. In general it is a book of divine spiritual inspiration in which God reveals Himself to man and offers guidance, comfort, assurance and advice for problems and forgiveness for sins. Still many people conclude that the Bible is only a book written by men.

### Does it speak the truth?

How can a person be sure that the Bible is the Word of God, the message of the Creator of the universe to the human race? What will convince a person? What will be the weight of proof that will tilt a person's mind to accept the Bible as the true word of God? Surely Columbus, Copernicus, Galileo, and Newton felt the same dismay. The flow in our unbelieving world is sceptical to what can be accepted as the absolute truth in our hearts and minds? It must first be said that no matter how much we say, or how much clear proof as evidence to the truth of the scriptures is given, still, some people's eyes and minds will remain closed. They are unable to understand and only a blurred dimness comes through to their mind of the light that has been revealed.

God created us with a mind to think and reason for ourselves. He extends His grace to all that accept it. Still there are people who complain that the scriptures are not applicable to our time, because God's word contains too many limitations. His laws give moral principles, which they do not like to retain. Only an open, inquisitive mind and eyes that are searching will see the clear light that has been revealed. Only then can evidence objectively be weight and understood.

We try to find answers to the following questions:

Why should we read or even study the Bible?  
Who says it is the Word of God?

spirit of bondage again to fear; but we have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry Abba, Father." [Rom: 8:14-15]

### The requirement is:

To *abide in faith* and believe in God's Word, *keep His commandments* and acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Son of God, as our Lord, Saviour and Creator of all things. We have to communicate with God and make our wishes known through prayer. Then He will lead us. His words are the light unto our feet [Jn: 6:63; Ps. 119:105]. But we have to ask according to His will, not according to our own lusts and desires.

"He that believes on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believes not God hath made him a liar; because he believes not the record that God gave of His Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son." [1 Jn: 5:10-11]

The scriptures are a maintenance Manuel that tells man how to live a life that will be blessed in such a way that eternal life will become its end result. God's word actually guides man in all aspects of life. It is up to man to accept the advice in obedience and faith or reject it and be condemned to death. To accept or reject advice is every individual person's own choice.

Have you ever met people who constantly complain about the scriptures? Have you ever asked any one of them whether they actually read the scriptures? You may find out that most of them have never read God's word, but form a negative opinion about it. How can one reply or criticize something of which one knows nothing about? To this Proverbs 18:13 tell us: "For he that answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame unto him."

So let us be thankful for the knowledge we received through the study of God's Word, and praise Him, for leading us into all truth with the help of His Holy Spirit.

their minds about their former opinions. Although some may still come up with the question:

Why then are there so many different teachings over the same things?

The problem is that people put their own ideas before those of the scriptures. They select scripture to accommodate their ideas. They prefer to believe in traditions and ideas of man instead in the words of Jesus Christ (Mt. 15:7-9).

Jesus asks:

“I say the truth, why do ye not believe Me? He that is of God hears God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God” (Jn: 8:46-47). Is it “because I tell you the truth, (that) ye believe Me not?” (Jn: 8:45).

1 Timothy 4:13 advises:

“Give yourself to reading.” - His word is the truth through which we are sanctified [Jn: 17:17]. Therefore we ought to read it thoroughly and not just skim over it, for than you miss its depth, which sometimes is hidden.

The scriptures are written for our benefit!

“For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved” (Jn. 3:17). He gave us His Word to gain wisdom and understanding. So that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; through whom we attain eternal life (Jn. 3:15). “If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” – “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (see Jn. 20:31; 15:7 and Mat. 7:7).

If we act in obedience according to the scriptures, we not only partake of the given promises, but also become the children of God. “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For we have not received the

By what authority was it written?  
What can the Bible tell us about itself?  
What has the bible to offer?

To answer all these above-mentioned questions let us turn to the scriptures to find the answers.

Why should we read and study the Bible?

- 1] Because it reveals the purpose of life for man.
- 2] It reveals the character of God to all that read it.
- 3] It explains man's origin and purpose and answers questions like:
  - Where did man come from?
  - What is man's purpose of life on earth?
  - What is man's final destination?
  - What is truth?
- 4] It shows the way to salvation and eternal life.
- 5] It explains the problems of sin and suffering and shows us how to overcome them.
- 6] It gives us moral standards to live by [the 10 commandments].
- 7] It shows us how to treat our fellow man and tells us that: "It is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Tim. 3: 16-17]

Therefore it is no wonder that the Bible is translated into practically every language on earth and is one of the most sold books in the entire world. It is a book whereby one acquires wisdom and understanding;” [Prv: 1:2] -- “For whoso finds Me finds life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord.” [Prv: 8:35]

We even receive blessings, if we study the Word of God and act accordingly. For we read: “Blessed is he that reads, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” [Rev. 3]

### Who says it is the Word of God?

Holy men of God wrote the Bible as the Holy Ghost moved them. We have to recognize that the books in the Bible are not written by the will of men, but are God-given inspirations written for our instruction in righteousness, for reproof and correction. For we read: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." [2 Timothy 3:16]

### By what authority was it written?

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the Word of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." [2 Peter 1:20, 21]

### What does the Bible tell us about itself?

It tells us that it is the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave, to show unto His servants which must shortly, come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John: Who bare record of the Word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw." (Rev. 1:1-2)

It tells us that His word is settled in heaven [Ps: 119:89] and that not one jot or one tittle shall pass from the law, till all be fulfilled [Mt: 5:18].

Although people know that God exists, they willfully deny His creative power inspite of its visible evidence of all that is created. They simply reject the record God has given, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." [Rom. 1: 20]

### God's power is manifest to all!

God tells men that His power has been made manifest in front of their eyes, but they willfully do not acknowledge it. Instead to acknowledge His work, they come up with their own fables, stories and ideas, thereby fooling themselves only. "Because, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imagina-

and unto the doctrine; continue in them; for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee."

So let us believe in God's Word, have faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and do His commandments. For through our action is faith made perfect and revealed to others. Then we will also be allowed to live with Him in the heavenly city. But "without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." [Heb: 11:6]

### For proof of the Bible's accuracy

We may refer to all the fulfilled biblical prophecies relating to Jesus Christ. It was predicted that He was to be born of a virgin, in the city of Bethlehem, of the lineage of King David. – It predicted when Jesus would begin His ministry, how He would die, and that He would be resurrected [Daniel 9, Isaiah 53, and Psalm 22].

The Bible accurately predicted the rise and fall of nations, as well as many of the conditions in today's world.

It predicted the re-establishment of Israel as a nation. Which alone is a prime example. When nothing existed in Palestine except a small Jewish community under the control of a hostile Ottoman Empire, the Bible stood sure that one day the nation of Israel would rise up, be self-governing, and make the desert blossom. Now this has come to pass! Israel has become an exporter of fruits and vegetables.

But is this enough for the sceptic?

I suppose there is but one hope for the person who doubts and that is at the place we started. Only God knows the way to touch a heart. Only He can take away the veil that blinds the eyes and darkens the mind. Only He knows when the time is right and the heart receptive.

Yet many people, who are challenged to read, change

**g.) They offer blessings to all that believe.** “Now therefore hearken unto Me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep My ways” (Prv. 8:32). – “Hear instruction, and be wise and refuse it not.” [Prv: 8: 32-33] - “He that hears My word, and believes on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” [Jn: 5:24]

We are further informed that,  
“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. Moreover *by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*” [Ps: 19:7-9,11]

But “he that rejects Me, and receives not My words, hath one that judges him. The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” [Jn: 12:48] - “For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:” [Prv: 6:23]

“God knows our hearts and its intent and has made known unto us the mystery of His word according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself” [Eph. 1:3, 9]. He revealed to us that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs of the same body and partakers of His promise in Christ by the Gospel [Eph. 3:5,6].

The Gospel is the Good News that He will come again. Until then the Bible instructs us to continue in the things which we have learned and have been assured of, knowing of whom we have learned them. [2 Tim. 3:14]. Jesus came as the Saviour for all men, especially for those, who believe in Him.

1 Timothy 4:15,16 instructs us to:  
“Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself,

tions, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.” [Rom. 1: 21,22]

Why do they become fools?

Because they put themselves unto the level of beasts, instead to admit that they were created in the image of God. God’s word tells us that they changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, to birds, four footed beasts and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: Why?, because people change the truth of God into a lie. Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof and serve the creature more than the Creator, (see Rom. 1: 23-25).

We must remember that man was created in the image of God not beasts! [Gen. 1:27]. We were created unto the glory of incorruption. Yet some people think to know more than God does and changed this incorruptible glory, the manifestation of His power and majesty, into an image of four footed beasts and creeping things and insist that they are the descendants of apes or even evolved out of slime. They do not believe in the record that God gives of Himself as the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

All these deviations from the truth were prophesied in the scriptures as signs of the end time and are now being fulfilled. He even foretold of “gay” couples when He said: “For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made. “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for *even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature. And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men* working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate

mind, to do these things which are not convenient” [Rom. 1: 26-28].

In Proverbs 4:10-13 we read:

“Hear, O my son, and *receive* my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.”

Note: obedience brings blessings!

“For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake” [1 Thes: 1:5]. - “For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life” (Prv: 6:23). “With long life will I satisfy him, and show him My salvation” (Ps: 91:16).

The Bible reveals conditions on earth.

“Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.” [1 Tm: 4:1-2] Therefore God instructs: “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come (has now arrived) when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” [2 Tm: 4:2-4]

A further warning in 2 Timothy 3:1-5: reads:

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God having a form of godliness, but denying the

power thereof: from such turn away.” - It is referring to people who are “ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” [2 Tim: 3:1-5 and 7]. These people read and hear the Word, but do not understand!

Jesus warns in Ecclesiastes 9:18

Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilence, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows” [Mt: 24:4-5,7-8]. Let us open our hearts and minds and learn from God’s word to gain wisdom and understanding. For “wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroys much good.”

What has the Bible to offer?

- a.) **The Bible offers guidelines** to grow in wisdom. For we read: “Happy is the man that finds wisdom, and gets understanding. My son let not them depart from your eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: So shall they be life unto your soul, and grace to your neck. For then you shall walk in your way safely, and your foot shall not stumble.” [Prv: 3:13, 21-23]
- b.) **The scriptures help us also in relationships**, in regards to speech, work and reveal ways in how to become successful in life.
- c.) **They give us the ability to discern** the wise from the foolish, and guide us to make mature choices.
- d.) **They offer spiritual life to all who listen** and believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and abide by His will [Jn: 20:31].
- e.) **They offer support confidence and hope** for a better time to come. For the scriptures “are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name” (Jn: 20:31).
- f.) **They provide assurance and peace of mind** (Rom. 8: 28, 38-39 and Phil. 1:6). – “He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him.” [Prv: 30:5] -