

To Glorify and Enjoy God

LESSON 4: THE SCRIPTURES ARE FOR GOD'S GLORY & OUR DELIGHT, PART 2

Intro:

BIG IDEA: The Scriptures teach us how to glory & enjoy God.

WSC Q. 3: What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A: The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man. (same as *WLC* #5)

This is the structure of the Catechism: first what we must believe, and the what we must do. Faith produces obedience.

“There is not such thing as true faith unless it also results in right practice.” **G.I. Williamson**¹⁷

6. The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men. Nevertheless, we acknowledge the inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word: and that there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, and government of the church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be ordered by the light of nature, and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed. *WCF*, I

- The Scriptures are not _____.
- Some _____ or circumstances are left to the “*light of nature*.”
- Scripture addresses these issues but not exhaustively. Doesn't answer every _____.
- The main themes of Scripture are God's glory, our salvation and living by faith.

“This doctrine means that Scripture reveals what is necessary to know for salvation.” **R.C. Sproul**¹⁸

“A person will not be fully persuaded or assured that the Bible is the word of God unless or until God the Holy Spirit does a work in his heart, which is called the internal testimony of the Spirit.” **R.C. Sproul**¹⁹

“There is no calamity like the silence of God. We cannot know the truth or know ourselves or know God's ways or savingly know God himself unless God speaks to us.” **Kevin DeYoung**²⁰

¹⁷ Williamson, G.I. *The Shorter Catechism*. Phillipsburg, P&R Publishing. 1970. Vol. 1, pp.12.

¹⁸ Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 7.

¹⁹ Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 16.

²⁰ DeYoung, pp. 19.

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How are We to Understand the Bible?

- The whole counsel of God can be discovered in two main ways.
- First, it can be _____ set down in Scripture. “*Thou shalt not kill/murder.*”
- Second, the Scriptures teach _____, or by “*good and necessary consequence.*”
- We are _____ on the “*illumination of the Spirit*” to be necessary.
- God is _____ by giving us a “*saving understanding of such things.*”

7. All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all: 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 the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them. *WCF, I*

- For His glory, He is promoting our _____ & love to those w/whom we _____.
- _____ is necessary because of a lack of clarity, the need for illumination & implicit teaching.
- _____ people, using the _____ means of Bible interpretation, can understand.
- You will not attain _____ understanding, but will gain “*sufficient understanding.*”

8. The Old Testament in Hebrew (which was the native language of the people of God of old), and the New Testament in Greek (which, at the time of the writing of it, was most generally known to the nations), being immediately inspired by God, and, by his singular care and providence, kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentical; so as, in all controversies of religion, the church is finally to appeal unto them. But, because these original tongues are not known to all the people of God, who have right unto, and interest in the Scriptures, and are commanded, in the fear of God, to read and search them, therefore they are to be translated into the vulgar language of every nation unto which they come, that, the Word of God dwelling plentifully in all, they may worship him in an acceptable manner; and, through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, may have hope. *WCF, I*

- Knowledge of the original languages is _____, but not _____.
- The OT was written in _____ with some Chaldean and Aramaic.
- The NT was written in _____ with some Aramaic as well.
- The original autographs, or copies, were _____. Subsequent copies were _____.
- Textual variances exist, as do variances in _____ and _____.
- The Scriptures are to be translated into the _____ language of each people group.
- God’s people are not to rely on what someone else says it means but to study it for hope.

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- The Bible is the final _____ in all religious _____.

“For we know how God accommodates himself to the ordinary way of speaking, on account of our ignorance, and sometimes even, if I may be allowed the expression, stammers.” **John Calvin**²¹

9. The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself: and therefore, when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture (which is not manifold, but one), it must be searched and known by other places that speak more clearly. *WCF, I*

- Back to interpreting the Bible: the _____ of Scripture. Scripture interprets _____!
- We interpret the less clear passage with the help of the more clear passages.
- The text has but _____ meaning: it can't mean _____ and contradictory things.
- The one meaning can have many _____! We _____ on the Scripture to understand.
- We use the ordinary means of _____ and historical _____ to understand.

Exercise:

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **John 3**

What does this passage teach us explicitly?

What does it teach by good and necessary consequence?

What is unclear about this passage?

³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.
³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.
³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ...⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. **John 6**

How does this passage clarify some unclear elements of John 3:16?

How do these doctrines help us to glorify and enjoy God?

²¹ Calvin, John. *Commentary on the Gospel According to John*. Grand Rapids, Baker Book House. Volume 2, pp. 299.

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Conclusion: