

## What effect will not reading the bible have on you?



Matthew 22:29

Hebrew 5:12



## What else is likely to happen if you do not read the word of God?

Why is it not enough to listen to sermons or read Christian paperbacks?  
How should we read the bible?



# FREEDOM

## Christian Church

## Why read the Bible?



We are often reminded that as Christians we need to read the Bible. The question this study seeks to answer is why? Why is it necessary that we read the Bible, what will happen if we do and what is likely to happen if we don't. It is fitting that in doing so we check out as many scriptures as possible.



### What the Bible says about itself?

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17*



### What does this verse tell us about the origin of the bible?

#### What are the scriptures to be used for?

God-breathed means inspired by God, it means that although the books of the bible were written by some 40 individuals over a period of 1500 years, reflecting different genres and the individual authors' personal style and experiences, it was God who caused what they wrote to be written, He directed the material and the method, His authority is behind what is written.



The above verse tells us that the bible is there as a guide and standard for our lives. We sometimes say that the bible is our 'final authority'. This means that it is the bible gives us the standard of what we are to believe



### What would happen if we did not have the bible?

#### What other things could we base our faith on?

If we did not have the bible we would have to base our faith on personal revelation and experience. This is always subjective and open error. The bible removes this uncertainty, it gives a uniform revelation of truth.



*Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:20*



### What is more authoritative, your experience or the bible?

#### What should you do when they differ?

### What is more authoritative, a preachers sermon or the bible?

#### What should you do when they differ?

It is important to realise that the bible has to be interpreted correctly and consistently. Many things the bible says are plain and straightforward, other things require thought and some background knowledge. 2 Peter 3:16



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### What should you do if you do not understand a passage of scripture?

You could ask someone who knows the Bible well or check it out in a commentary or Bible dictionary. Sometimes you just have to file it away and wait until you do understand it. The first thing you should do is to as the Holy Spirit to guide you. John 16:13

The bible contains 'all that is needful for salvation' this means that if it is not in the bible it is not binding upon us. Eg. 1 Timothy 4:3. People frequently seem to feel the need to add things to the requirements for salvation.

**If someone comes up with some new teaching that goes beyond the bible what should we do?**



### What the Bible is like?

The Bible describes itself using a number of metaphors. Check out each verse.



### What do each of these tell us about the bible?

#### How do each of these metaphors work?

#### What implications do they have?

Psalm 19:10	Gold
	Sweet
Psalm 119:105	Light Lamp
Jeremiah 23:29	Fire
	Hammer
Isaiah 55:10	Rain Water
Luke 8:11	Seed
Ephesians 5:26	Wash
Hebrew 4:12	Sword
Hebrews 5:12-14	Milk
James 1:22-25	Mirror
1 Peter 2:2	Milk



### Why we should read it?

#### What effect will reading the bible have on you?

2 Timothy 3:15	Wise
Joshua 1:8	Prosper succeed
Psalm 1:2-3	Stable Growth Faithful
Psalm 119:130	Understanding
Psalm 119:11	Purifies



### In addition to this, what do you think will happen as you read the word of God?

Hear from God.
Convicted of sin.
Guidance
Faith is going to build
Example of how to live what to do in situations
Grow in knowledge about God
Learn what God wants
Be motivated
Grow in hunger for God
Recognize right and wrong.
Learn spiritual techniques.
Be prepared for the situations you face.
Peace and stability
Encouraged



*So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11*

Subconsciously most of us read the bible for one of the reasons listed above. Pastors read the bible to find their next sermon! If you read the bible to hear from God, you will probably hear from God. If you read the bible to grow, you will probably grow, but you probably won't hear from God. Our subconscious reason for reading narrows the impact of the word of God in our life.



### What should we do about this?

Read for different reasons at different times.  
Be open to all of the above.



The Bible is called the word of God. Above all else, this means that it is through the bible that God speaks to us. Jesus is also called the word of God, the meaning is the same. God speaks in many ways but the bible is chief among them. Therefore as you read the bible God will speak to you, you can develop a relationship with God through the study of the word.



### If you are not reading the bible can you complain if God does not speak to you?

Even when God does speak in other ways how will you be able to test it and know it is God if you do not have a firm bible knowledge?  
As you read the word of God you will find that a process of osmosis takes place, God's word enters your life almost subconsciously. You will also find that the more you read the more you will gain sudden insights, you will make connections with other scripture and with your daily life.