

COURSE INTRODUCTION

There are many divine attributes of God that are often celebrated in the lives of Christians, as well as in the life of the church. We celebrate God's omnipotence, as we reflect upon His great power. We acknowledge God's sovereignty, as we look back on how He has woven all of the events of our lives together for our good and His Glory. We revere God as holy, because He is indeed set apart. With every acknowledgement of God's character, the Scriptures attest to the fact that we serve a God that is **active**. The Bible is the account of **God's action** in the world, and His purpose with all creation.

The writing of the Bible took place over 1600 years and is the work of over forty human authors. It is quite an amazing collection of 66 books with very different genres of literature, writing styles, and original audiences. This compilation contains the exact message God desired us to have. This message is revealed to us in two short stories (Old & New Testaments), that combined reveal one Grand story that points fallen humanity directly to Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen King!

<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>New Testament</i>
39 Books	27 Books
Creation, Fall, Anticipation	Redemption, Restoration

Over the next four weeks this class is designed to help you answer the following questions about the Bible:

- Who wrote it? Week 1
- Why should I trust it? Week 2
- Why 66 books? Week 3
- How should I respond ? Week 4

It is our deepest desire for every follower of Jesus Christ to be equipped with every tool they need to GROW in their relationship with God in order to SERVE Him more effectively. With that in mind, this course is designed to provide every participant with the understanding of how the Bible as we know it came to be. It is our goal that every participant will gain clarity on

the origin, trustworthiness, and history of the Bible as we journey together through the dramatic stories behind our English Bibles. Ultimately, our prayer is that it will lead you to cherish the Word of God even more as you strive to live its out.

CLASS FOUR

HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

ISAIAH 60:16

16 Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gen'tiles, and shalt suck the breast of kings; and thou shalt know that I the LORD *am* thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

17 For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron: I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness.

18 Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders: but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.

The Everlasting Light

19 The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

20 Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

21 Thy people also *shall be* all righteous; they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.

22 A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in his time.

The Acceptable Year of the Lord

61 The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are bound*;

2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zi'-on, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

4 And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

5 And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien *shall be* your plowmen and your vinedressers.

6 But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: *men* shall call you the Ministers of our God; ye shall eat the riches of the Gen'tiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

The Everlasting Joy

7 For your shame ye *shall have* double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion; therefore in their land they shall possess the double; everlasting joy shall be unto them.

8 For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

9 And their seed shall be known among the Gen'tiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed *which* the LORD hath blessed.

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The Robe of Righteousness

10 I will greatly rejoice in thee, O LORD, as they that say, My strength shall be joyful in me with the garment of salvation which thou hast given me, and as a bridegroom decked with ornaments, and as a bride adorned with her jewels.

11 For as the earth bringeth forth her increase, and as the garden bringeth forth her fruits, so shall the LORD bring forth righteousness, and peace, and shall be joyful in me, as in his seed, and as in his work, because righteousness shall be sown in it to spring, and shall bring forth the increase of righteousness before all the nations.

A Crown of Glory

62 For Zi'-on, because of her holiness, she shall not rest, until she bring forth the Son of Peace, and she shall be built as a lamp that shall not be put out.

2 And the Gentiles shall build up the walls of Jerusalem, and shall call by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name.

3 Thou shalt be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name.

4 Thou shalt be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name.

5 For as a young man shall thy sons be, and as a bridegroom shall thy young men be, and as a bride shall thy virgin be, and as a bridegroom shall thy young men be, and as a bride shall thy virgin be.

6 I have set watchmen upon the walls of Jerusalem, that they may see whether the day be not come, whether the day be not come, whether the day be not come.

7 And give heed, O Jerusalem, thou shalt be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name.

A City Not Forsaken

8 The LORD shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name.

9 And they shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name.

10 Go through the highway, ye the way of the highway; gather ye the way of the highway; gather ye the way of the highway.

11 Behold, the LORD shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name.

12 And they shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name.

13 And they shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name.

The Day of Vengeance

63 Who is this that is glorified, that is glorious in his righteousness, might, and power, and who is this that is glorified, that is glorious in his righteousness, might, and power?

2 Wherefore shall we be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name, which shall be called by a new name.

CLASS FOUR

HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

Over the last three weeks we have answered the questions, “Who wrote it?”, “Why should I trust it?”, and “Why 66 books?” In answering these questions, we have adequately defined the doctrines of ***Inspiration***, ***Inerrancy***, and ***Canonicity***. Now, we will attempt to answer the most critical question in this class “***How should we Respond?***” The reason that this class is most critical, is because we believe that proper knowledge should always be followed by proper action. The appropriate response to the Bible begins with the acknowledgement that the Scriptures are ***authoritative*** and ***sufficient***.

I. The Doctrine of Authority

Authority - The idea that all words in the Scriptures are God’s word and requires our obedience. The Word of God is to be the ultimate authority in the life of the Believer and in the life of the church.

- a. **Authority in Church** - Biblical authority in the church is the idea of aligning the church doctrines, ordinances, positions, and practices with what is explicitly laid out in Scripture.*
- b. **Authority in individual life**- the idea of allowing the Word of God to shape your decision making, attitudes, and actions. It is a viewpoint that acknowledges that the Bible is an absolute standard by which reality is measured.*

II. The Doctrine of Sufficiency

Sufficiency- The Idea that Scripture contains all the word of God that He intended for His people to have at each stage of Redemptive History. The Scriptures contain all that is needed for Salvation, trusting God fully, and obeying Him intently.

Sufficiency does not mean:

- The Bible is the only source of information
- The Bible is the only authority
- The Bible is will explicitly answer every single question you have

To say that the Bible is sufficient is to hold true to the statement: “The Bible is the ***final authority*** and that every other authority is ***correctible*** by Scripture.”

III. Responding to the Bible

Acknowledge that the Scriptures are from God and they are His **primary means** of communicating with us.
(Rom. 10:17, 2 Tim. 3:16, Heb. 1:1-2, Heb. 4:12 2 Pet 1:20)

Accept that the Scriptures contain all that is necessary to receive **salvation** by **grace** alone, through **faith** alone, in **Christ** alone.
(Ps. 19:7, 2 Pet. 1:3, 1 Cor. 15:3, 2 Cor. 3:4-6, Eph. 2:8-9)

Commit to learning and internalizing God's word, as the Holy Spirit uses it to make us look more like Christ.
(Josh. 1:8, Ezra 7:10, Ps. 1:2, Ps. 119:11, 2 Tim. 2:15)

Prioritize your time in God's Word and its role shaping your decisions and actions in every area of your life.
(Prov. 3:5-6, Prov. 16:3, Ps. 119:105, Matt. 6:33, Rom. 12:1-2)

Obey the commands, ordinances, and precepts that are laid out explicitly in the Bible.
(Ex. 23:22, 1 Sam. 15:22, Ps. 119:30, Jn. 14:15, 1 Jn. 5:3)

Apply its principles and precepts as you think critically about living out your faith.
(Ez. 7:10, Ps. 119:15, Rom. 12:2, Col. 3:2, Phil 4:8)

Share the good news of the Gospel and all of the riches that God's word contains every chance you get.
(Matt. 28:19-20, Acts. 1:8, Rom. 1:16, 1 Cor. 9:22, 2 Cor. 5:20)

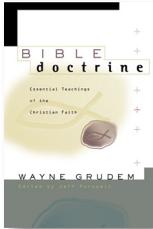
Discussion Questions:

1. How should the doctrines of authority and sufficiency impact how we respond to the Bible?
2. Which of the seven immediate responses to the Bible do you struggle with the most? Why?

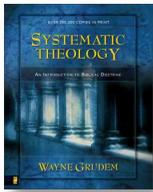
Memory Verse:

Psalm 119:9
James 1:22-25

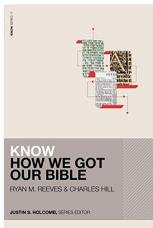
READING LIST



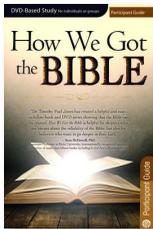
Bible Doctrine: Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith
by Wayne Grudem



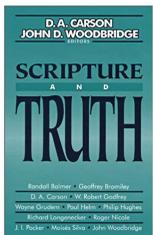
Systematic Theology
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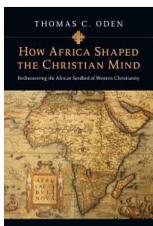
Know How We Got the Bible
by Ryan M. Reeves and Charles E. Hill



How We Got the Bible
by Timothy Paul Jones



Scripture and Truth
by D.A. Carson and John Woodbridge



How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind
by Thomas C. Oden