



Bible Handling Skills

Week 1

What is the Bible and Why should we read it?

'All scripture is breathed out by God, and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.'

– 2 Timothy 3:16

Authority of Scripture

When we study the Bible what authority should we give it?

- God is a speaking God (e.g. Gen 1:3)
- God speaks directly to people (e.g. Ex 20:22)
- God speaks indirectly through people (e.g. Deut 18:15-22, Isaiah 37:6)
- God speaks finally in Jesus (e.g. John 1:1, Hebrews 1:1-2)

What do these passages say about what Scripture is?

The Old Testament

Deut 29:1, Jer 30:2 Ex 24:7, Mt 1:22,
Acts 1:16-17, Mt 5:17-19

The New Testament

Jn14:26, Jn16:12-15, 2Pet3:16,
1Thess2:13

'Knowing this first of all, that no scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.'
– 1 Peter 1:20-21

- The Bible is revelation from God, through men.
- The style may vary from human writer to human writer, but the content is one consistent whole from God.
- Because the Bible is God speaking, it has authority over all else – our reason (Isaiah 55:8-9), experience (1Cor4:4), any other person or institution (Acts 2:41)

Reliability of Scripture

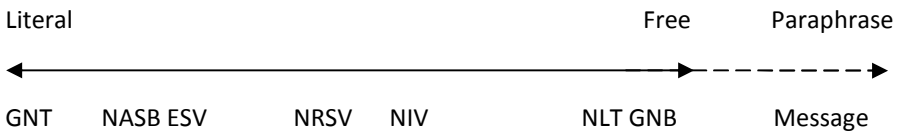
How do we know that what we have in our Bible's is true?

Two Questions

1. Is what was revealed really true?

2. Can we be sure that what we have now is what God revealed then?

But what does that mean for different translations?



Look at the following versions of Romans 1:16-18 and compare:

- How easy is it to read out loud?
- Is the main point the same in each?
- Where do they differ? Highlight words that are different.
- Do any give a different meaning to the detail?

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. **(English Standard Version)**

¹⁶I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹⁷For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. **(New International Version)**

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. ¹⁷This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

¹⁸But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. **(New Living Translation)**

Sufficiency of Scripture

Does the Bible contain enough information, or do we need to look elsewhere also?

Sufficient for Salvation

'Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; For "all flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.'

- 1 Peter 1:23-25

Sufficient for Godliness

'All scripture is breathed out by God, and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.'

- 2 Timothy 3:16

Sufficient in Revelation

'Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers in the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom he also created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high'

- Hebrews 1:1-3

Impact of Scripture

What implications should the authority, reliability and sufficiency of scripture have on the way we view studying the Bible?

How should we expect the Bible to affect us as we study it?

An Evangelical is someone who believes the Bible even when he or she doesn't want to.

- Pete Gaskill

“Basically I always just thought it (exposition) was a fancy word that evangelicals liked to throw around to sound clever but it is the idea that you are trying to 'expose' the original intention of the author as opposed to 'imposing' your opinions and hobby horses on to the text. “

- Ed Kitchin

Further reading:

Why Trust the Bible – Amy Orr-Ewing

Dig Deeper – Beynon & Sach

The Doctrine of the Knowledge of God – John M Frame

Meltdown – Marcus Honeysett