

PASTOR: Rich Bosman
DATE: October 27, 2024

SERMON: The Clarity of Scripture

“Your Work is a lamp to my feet and light to my path.” Psalm 119:105

MAIN SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 3:14-18

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE / FURTHER READING: Joshua 1:8, Deuteronomy 6:6-8, 30:11-14, Psalm 1:2, 19 7-14, 139:7-17, 119:34, 73, 105, Acts 17:10-12, 20, 2 Peter 3:14-28, Isaiah 55:5-9, 1 Corinthians 2:14, 13:12, 14-16, Luke 24:27, 44, John 5:39, Matthew 12:3, 5 21:42, 22:29, John 3:10, Ezra 7:10

MESSAGE TAKEAWAY: The clarity of Scripture reminds us that we as Christians should all be reading Scripture daily for our entire lives.

SUPPORTING THOUGHTS:

Suggestions from author Kevin De Young

- Some portions of scripture are clearer than others. Not every passage has a simple or obvious meaning.
- The main things we need to know, believe, and do can be clearly seen in the Bible.
- Though the most essential doctrines are not equally clear in every passage, they are all made clear somewhere in Scripture.
- That which is necessary for our Salvation can be understood even by the uneducated, provided that they make use of the ordinary means of study and learning.
- The most important points in the scriptures may not be understood perfectly but they can be understood sufficiently.

Rich listed some responses to the Pharisees that Jesus gave. Below is a short list of them. Do you feel you are guilty of any of these?

- “Have you not read what David did....” (Matthew 12:3)
- “Have you not read in the Law” (Matthew 12:5)
- “Have you not read what was said to you by God” (Matthew 21:42)
- “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?” (John 3:10)
- “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God” (Matthew 22:29)

Clarity is not the same as simplicity, and not all texts are as straightforward as others.

(OVER)



(SUPPORTING THOUGHTS CONTINUED)

- The saving message of Jesus Christ is plainly taught in the Scriptures & can be understood by all who have ears to hear it.
- Yet nothing essential to salvation is so obscure that it cannot be found simply by reading the text on one's own.
- **Six Requirements for Understanding Scripture Rightly:** *Time, Effort, Memorization, Use What is Available, Obedience, Prayer and the Holy Spirit*

CHALLENGE: Read a portion of the Scripture each day.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What are your thoughts on this quote from Rich, "The blame for not understanding parts of Scripture is always on the reader, never on the Scripture itself.?"
- Why do you think there is so much disagreement among Christians about some of the teachings in the Bible?
- Do you have a particular verse or section of the Bible that you always struggled with understanding?
- What would happen to the church if most believers gave up reading the Bible for themselves and only listened to Bible teachers and preachers or read books about the Bible?
- John Calvin wanted members of his congregation to be "disciples of Scripture." How do you feel you are doing as a disciple of Scripture? How could you improve your discipleship in this area?
- When did you last think about the prophet "Ezra"? What can we learn from him?
- What are your thoughts about the quote Rich used that goes like this, "Too many Christians mark their Bibles, but their Bibles never mark them"?
- Looking at Acts 17, what can we learn from the Bereans?
- Are you, or someone you know, in "solitary confinement?"

Sources: Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology, The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, Kevin De Young, *Taking God at His Word*, Ligonier, [The Clarity of Scripture](#), Michael S. Heiser, [Logos.com](#), Mark D. Thompson, *A Clear and Present Word: The Clarity of Scripture*, Simon J. Kistemaker, Simon J., *New Testament Commentary, Acts*, Will Graham, *Evangelical Focus*, Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology, Vol.1*, Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2*, Beeke and Smalley, *Reformed Systematic Theology Vol. 1*, Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2*.

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