

The Christian Adventure series

LESSON 4

THE CHRISTIAN'S AUTHORITY

Objective: To understand the role and the power of the Bible in our daily Christian lives

(Read at home: Psalm 119:97–104)

Memorize: 1 Thessalonians 2:13

¹³ Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received His message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very Word of God - which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe.

Bible Study

BIBLICAL CLAIMS OF AUTHORITY

1. What were the attitudes of the following prophets concerning their writings?

Isaiah 43:2

2 Listen, O heavens! Pay attention, earth!

This is what the LORD says...

Jeremiah 23:5

5 “For the time is coming,” says the LORD, “when I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David’s line. He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land.

Ezekiel 36:32–38

33 “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When I cleanse you from your sins, I will repopulate your cities, and the ruins will be rebuilt.

2. What were the attitudes of the following authors toward other writers of Scripture?

Paul (Romans 3:1-2)

1 Then what's the advantage of being a Jew? Is there any value in the ceremony of circumcision? 2 Yes, there are great benefits! First of all, the Jews were entrusted with the whole revelation of God.

Peter (2 Peter 1:20–21)

20 Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, 21 or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.

The writer of Hebrews (1:1)

1 Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets.

3. If these writers had this high regard for Scripture, how should we view the Bible?

What part should God's Word have in our lives and in the way we evaluate and react to circumstances and events?

PURPOSE OF PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

1. Name some practical results of a thorough study of the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:15–17).

15 You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

2. In Acts 20:32, Paul says that the Word of God is able to do what two things?

32 “And now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those He has set apart for Himself.

3. What should be the effect of reading the Bible on your own life (James 1:22–25)?

22 But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23 For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.

25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

PREPARATIONS FOR PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

1. Set aside a definite time. When did Moses meet with God (Exodus 34:2–4)?

2 Be ready in the morning to climb up Mount Sinai and present yourself to me on the top of the mountain. 3 No one else may come with you. In fact, no one is to appear anywhere on the mountain. Do not even let the flocks or herds graze near the mountain.” 4 So Moses chiseled out two tablets of stone like the first ones. Early in the morning he climbed Mount Sinai as the LORD had commanded him, and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands.

When did Christ meet with God (Mark 1:35)?

35 Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.

When is the best time for you?

2. Find a definite place. Where did Christ pray (Mark 1:35)?

35 Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.

What is the value of being alone?

3. Employ these tools:

- Modern translation of the Bible
- Notebook and pen
- Dictionary for new words

PROCEDURE FOR PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

1. Observation: What does the passage say? Read quickly for content. Read again carefully, underlining key words and phrases.

2. Interpretation: What does the passage mean? Ask God to give you understanding of the passage. Consult a dictionary or modern translation for the precise meaning of words.

Ask these:

Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

3. Application: Ask yourself, “What does the passage mean to me and how can I apply it to my life?”

Make a list of the following:

- Attitudes to be changed
- Actions to take or avoid
- Promises to claim
- Sins to confess and forsake
- Examples to follow

Practice sample: Read Luke 19:1-10.

1 Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town.

2 There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich.

3 He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd.

4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

5 When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said.

“Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.”

6 Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy.

7 But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled.

8 Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!”

9 Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, **for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham.**

10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”

Study the text and apply the Bible study method you have just learned.

- What does the passage say?

- What does it mean?
- How does this apply to me?

Plan your Bible study time for the next four weeks. Write down the time, the place, and the passages to be studied.

(Example)

1st week: Ephesians 1:1-10

2nd week: Ephesians 1:11-23

3rd week: Ephesians 2:1-10

4th week: Ephesians 2:11-22