



# **God's Answers to Good Questions**

Lesson 1 - What Is the Bible



## PREPARE

- Please read the following passages:
  - 1 Thessalonians 2:13
  - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
  - 2 Peter 1:19-21
  - Hebrews 3:7-8
  - Ephesians 5:8-10
- Watch the video lesson and complete the Study Guide while watching

## STUDY GUIDE

### I. Introductory Comments

- A. We're going to focus on some of the \_\_\_\_\_ and most \_\_\_\_\_ questions
- B. We want to give \_\_\_\_\_ answers to those questions
- C. We're not interested in peddling mere \_\_\_\_\_ opinions
1. What \_\_\_\_\_ think ... what \_\_\_\_\_ think ... what \_\_\_\_\_ thinks on any number of topics, may be a little bit interesting, but it's really not \_\_\_\_\_ in the bigger picture
  2. We want to know what \_\_\_\_\_ thinks ... what \_\_\_\_\_ says ... what are God's answers
- D. I am not trying to just cram \_\_\_\_\_ down your throat
1. I want your mind to be \_\_\_\_\_ ... I want you to \_\_\_\_\_ about these things ... I want you to engage with the topic and \_\_\_\_\_ with the question
  2. These are not \_\_\_\_\_ or unimportant issues that we're going to be raising ... these are things of world importance, things of \_\_\_\_\_ significance

- E. I invite you to go back to the specific passages of \_\_\_\_\_ I mention and consider them for yourselves ... really think, "What does \_\_\_\_\_ say in this particular passage?"
- F. There are certain \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ that I hold and from which I speak and teach
1. I'm not \_\_\_\_\_ of them ... I'm not going to try to \_\_\_\_\_ them from you ... I don't pretend that I'm \_\_\_\_\_ and have no real commitments
  2. I believe that the Word of God is fully \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_
  3. That's why, as we raise these important questions, we're not going to \_\_\_\_\_, or to \_\_\_\_\_ studies, or to \_\_\_\_\_ people ... we're going back to the Word of God as our \_\_\_\_\_
- G. There is a certain \_\_\_\_\_ to what I'm saying and doing - we're going to keep coming back to certain \_\_\_\_\_, certain \_\_\_\_\_, certain \_\_\_\_\_
1. I believe that everything points us back to \_\_\_\_\_, and who He is, and how He has made Himself \_\_\_\_\_
  2. I believe that everything points to \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_ work ... in Him are all the secrets of wisdom and knowledge

## II. What is the Bible?

- A. One of the most \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ questions is this: What is the Bible? What are we to think about it?
1. The Bible is a collection of 66 books \_\_\_\_\_ over thousands of years, \_\_\_\_\_, and then \_\_\_\_\_
  2. It's the New Testament and the Old Testament

B. The Apostle Paul addresses this in 1 Thessalonians 2:13 – *“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”*

1. He says that they did not accept it as the word of \_\_\_\_\_, as if this was just Paul's \_\_\_\_\_
2. This is a major \_\_\_\_\_ that everybody has to make
3. Many religious scholars would say, “Oh, it's the word of \_\_\_\_\_... that's a \_\_\_\_\_ document ... it's the collected and gathered \_\_\_\_\_ of the ages, which has been preserved and is helpful for people who are of a \_\_\_\_\_ bent.”
4. You can say, “I \_\_\_\_\_ it as the Word of God” ... or you can say, “I'll \_\_\_\_\_ it like a human document, much like many other \_\_\_\_\_ religious documents.”
5. This word came from \_\_\_\_\_, God has given it, and it has that essential \_\_\_\_\_ character to it ... it's not mere human opinion
  - a. It \_\_\_\_\_ God to us
  - b. It \_\_\_\_\_ us Christ and His sacrifice
  - c. It \_\_\_\_\_ us to faith, and then it draws us along ... in the work of sanctification, we become more and more \_\_\_\_\_ as the Word of God does its work
6. As we see the work of sanctification developing in ourselves and in our fellow Christians, we can say, “Aha, here is \_\_\_\_\_ that this is indeed what it claims to be - the Word of God.”

C. Another important passage is 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

1. The theological concept of “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” in this verse is valuable and sound, but it might be better to translate the beginning of the verse as “All Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_ by God”
2. The idea here is not that God breathed “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” the Bible (that He breathed something in that didn't exist), but rather the idea is that God “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” His Word
3. It's true for every single \_\_\_\_\_, every single \_\_\_\_\_ ... every single \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word is “breathed out” by God

D. One last passage to call to our attention is 2 Peter 1:19-21 – *“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*

1. No prophecy has ever been the act of human \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Bible is the very Word of God, given to us by the \_\_\_\_\_ through these holy men, and it is breathed out by God Himself

### III. How Do We Know the Bible is God's Word?

A. Scripture itself \_\_\_\_\_ makes the claim to be the Word of God

1. Over and over in the Bible, especially in the \_\_\_\_\_, there is a little Hebrew phrase - koh 'ā·mār Yahweh - “Thus saith the Lord ...”
2. This claim doesn't just show up once or twice and in a few books; it shows up \_\_\_\_\_
3. If this claim is \_\_\_\_\_, then the Bible is full of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and we cannot accept a single thing that it says to us

- B. Another key passage is Hebrews 3:7-8 – *“Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness ...”*
1. He is saying that Psalm 95 is not the word of \_\_\_\_\_ or one of the other soulmates ... this is the word of the \_\_\_\_\_
  2. We see Scripture itself claiming to be the Word of God ... it is saying that this is what the \_\_\_\_\_ says
- C. Theologians speak of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_, or the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ rationale for believing the Bible is God’s Word
1. Externally or objectively, the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_
    - a. That means that it \_\_\_\_\_ itself to be the Word of God
    - b. Micah says that the Messiah would be born in \_\_\_\_\_ of Judea ... in Matthew 1 and Luke 3, we see that Jesus was born in \_\_\_\_\_
  2. The second line of proof is the internal or \_\_\_\_\_ aspect
    - a. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit, testifying in us and to us that this is indeed the Word of God
    - b. When it comes to an \_\_\_\_\_, an \_\_\_\_\_ can see and even appreciate the external self-attesting nature of Scripture, but they cannot have the \_\_\_\_\_ testimony of the Holy Spirit because that is the one thing only a \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ can have

#### IV. Why Is the Bible Important for Me?

- A. Ephesians 5:8-10 & 17 says, *“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. ... Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”*
1. It's in Scripture that God makes His \_\_\_\_\_ plainly known to us

2. We can't look to our own \_\_\_\_\_, our own personal philosophies or \_\_\_\_\_ ... we can't look anywhere \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves or even look to outward \_\_\_\_\_ sources ... we must look to God's Word if we want to \_\_\_\_\_ God

B. 2 Timothy 3:17 revisited ... all Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_:

1. It's profitable for \_\_\_\_\_ - for telling us the truth that we need to know
2. It's profitable for \_\_\_\_\_ - it points out our faults and our errors
3. It's profitable for \_\_\_\_\_ - telling us don't believe that, believe this instead ... don't do that, do this instead
4. It's profitable for \_\_\_\_\_ us in righteousness, so that we might be fully equipped for every good thing