

## Have You Not Read ...?

*Pursue Your Joy in God and Read Your Bible Well*

Matthew 12:3; Coast School of Theology; Pastor Earl Miles; 1-6-19

Goal: Encouragement to read your Bible ... and read it well!

### 1. God expects us to read and to know what His Word says.

*Why would that be important?*

But He said to them, “**Have you not read** what David did when he became hungry, he and his companions, - Matthew 12:3 (also Matthew 12:5; Matthew 19:4; Matthew 22:31; Mark 12:10; Mark 12:26; Luke 6:3

*How do we know we have the right books in the Bible?*

Canon (Greek, *Kanon*) – measuring rod, ruler or norm

**Scripture’s Testimony to Authority:** Scripture itself indicates that there would be authoritative books (Dt 18:20-22; John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Corinthians 14:37; 2 Peter 3:15-16; Colossians 4:16; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; Deuteronomy 25:4; Luke 10:7; Revelation 22:18-19). We are warned about adding to the Word of God. (Revelation 22:18-19) Paul knew he was writing with authority and commanded that his letters be read in the churches as authoritative (1 Corinthians 14:37). Jesus told His apostles that they would be led by the Holy Spirit to proclaim His Word (John 14:26; 16:13).

**Scripture’s Self-Attestation:** The Spirit gave testimony to each of these books which was recognized by the Church. (Hebrews 4:12)

**Testimony of Jesus and the Apostles:** The early church recognized the Hebrew OT as the Word of God because it was the Bible of Jesus and the Apostles

**Testimony of the Early Church Fathers:** The church fathers quote the NT writings as Scripture and include the entire NT in their writings

**Early Acceptance of the Core NT Books:** From the beginning, most of the 27 books of the NT were received as authoritative, but some others were disputed and others considered for inclusion.

**Antiquity:** The Church considered those books written in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. The early church had God’s Word in written form at least by the 40s AD and completed no later than the 90s.

**Apostolicity:** The Church considered, especially, those books written by an apostle or close associate of an apostle. Five books not written by apostles: Mark, Luke, Acts, Hebrews, and

Jude. But Mark was closely associated with Peter. Luke was closely associated with Paul (Luke, Acts). Jude was the brother of James and half-brother of Jesus. Many argue that Hebrews was written by Paul or someone closely associated with him (this plus its self-attestation).

**Non-Contradiction:** The Church considered those books that were consistent internally (with other books in the NT) and with the OT.

**Catholicity:** The Church considered those books widely accepted throughout the Christian world, not just in certain sects.

**Endurance and Recognition:** By the time of the Church Councils in the late 300s, the books that stood clearly above the others were apparent and recognized (Council of Carthage in 397).

## **2. God expects us to go wide and to go deep in His Word.**

*What might that look like?*

- Reading Plans
- Focus on Portions

## **3. God expects us to pursue right understanding and right application of His Word.**

*Do we have to interpret the Scriptures and if so, how?*

Interpretation Principles

- Prayer for Understanding and Grace to Obey (Psalm 119:144)
- Words Used in Context (Matthew 22:32; Galatians 3:16)
- Historical Setting (1 Thessalonians 5:26; 1 Corinthians 7:26)
- Style Employed (Psalm 18:7-10; John 11:11-14; 10:9)
- Big Picture of the Whole of Scripture (Matthew 4:4, 7; Matthew 22:23-29; John 9:2-3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Matthew 22:32; Romans 11:33; Matthew 22:29, 31)
- NT interprets OT (Matthew 2:15; Galatians 3:16; Acts 15:15; Ephesians 2:20; Hebrews 1:1)
- Clear interprets Unclear (2 Peter 3:16; Psalm 119:105; 2 Peter 3:14-18; Matthew 19:3-12; Hebrews 11:17-34)
- Communion with Non-Present Saints (Hebrews 13:7)
- Communion with Present Saints (Acts 2:42)
- Obedience (John 7:17)
- Humility (2 Peter 3:16)
- Growth through Time and Trial (2 Peter 3:18; Psalm 119:71)