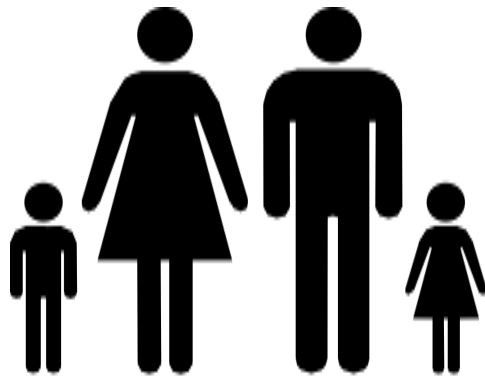


# New Disciple's Class

Lesson 04 – THE BIBLE: THE RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE



*Enter to Worship*

*Depart to Serve*

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**THE BIBLE: THE RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE**

**The Origin of the Bible**

**Divine Source and Inspiration:** The Bible came from God. *II Timothy 3:16-17.* God used about forty different persons to write the bible all of who were inspired to write by the power of the Holy Ghost. *II Peter 1:20-21.* Although different people wrote portions of the Bible, all of the writers have written about one theme of how God through his acts in history has provided for the redemption and salvation of mankind. Because we believe that the bible comes to us from God, we also believe that it is our authority for determining what is proper conduct and practice for both the individual Christian as well as the Church as a corporate body.

**The Books of the Old Testament**

The books of the Old Testament fall into four categories: book of (1) - Law, (2) - History, (3) - Poetry and (4) - Prophecy.

**Books of Law: There are five books of law: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.**

These five books are called the Pentateuch (pronounced pen-ta-teuk), from the Greek word Penta, five, and teuchos, meaning book. They were written mostly by Moses. The last chapter, telling of Moses' death, probably was added by another writer, possibly Joshua.

<b>Books of Law</b>	
<b>Genesis</b>	This is the book of beginnings
<b>Exodus</b>	This is book documents their exodus from Egypt
<b>Leviticus</b>	This book takes its name from the tribe of Levi (the priest), one of the Twelve tribes of Israel
<b>Numbers</b>	This book is so called because it tells how the people of Israel were twice numbered, or counted in national censuses
<b>Deuteronomy</b>	means the second law or repeated law

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<b>Books of History</b>	
<b><u>Joshua, Judges, Ruth</u></b>	These three books tell how Israel conquered the Promised Land and lived there with the Judges as their leaders.
<b><u>I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, II Kings, I Chronicles, II Chronicles:</u></b>	These books tell how Israel became a monarchy and rose to be one of the great nations of the world, how that nation was divided and weakened and how it's people finally were made captives by Assyrians and Babylonians.
<b><u>Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther</u></b>	These books tell events in Palestine and in Persia, after the Babylonian captivity was ended.

<b><u>Books of Poetry</u></b> There are five books of poetry	
<b>Job</b>	This book is a dramatic debate in poetic form, dealing with the problem of human suffering
<b>Psalms</b>	This is a collection of songs and prayers, many of which were written by David. Some of them were probably written especially for worship services.
<b>Proverbs</b>	This is a collection of short, wisdom sayings, most of which were written by Solomon.
<b>Ecclesiastes</b>	The title of this book means 'preacher'. This is the name given to himself by Solomon, who wrote the book.
<b>Song of Solomon</b>	This book is an operetta a love story. Many have interpreted the book as a prophecy of the love between Christ and his church.

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<b><u>Books of Prophecy</u></b>	
<b><u>Major Prophets</u></b>	<p>These books of prophecy are called major because they are longer than the other books, not because they are more important.</p> <p>Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel.</p>
<b><u>Minor Prophets</u></b>	<p>The Minor Prophets are placed after the Major Prophets in the arrangement of the Bible, but Obadiah, Joel, Jonah, and Amos actually lived and taught earlier than any of the Major Prophets. Only Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi came later than any of the Major Prophets.</p> <p>Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.</p>

**The Books of the New Testament**

The books of the New Testament fall into four categories:

1. Gospels
2. History
3. Letters
4. Prophecy

The books of the Gospels	
<b><u>Gospels</u></b> – The Four Gospels are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.	The word ‘Gospel’ means ‘good news’. Each of these books gives the good news that Jesus came to earth, died, to save.

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<b><u>Book of History</u></b>	
<b>ACTS</b> is the one book of history in the New Testament.	Although often titled <b>The Acts of the Apostles</b> , it tells only some of the acts Of some of the apostles. Written by Luke, a frequent companion of Paul, it tells more of the acts of Paul than of any other apostle.

**Letters** - The New Testament has twenty-one **LETTERS**. Some prefer the name Epistles, which means the same. Each one is named either for the writer or for the person to whom it was written.

**Paul Letters** - The first fourteen letters probably were written by Paul, though no one really knows who wrote the fourteenth, Hebrews. The fourteen letters are: **Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Timothy, II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews.**

Paul's Letters are sometimes called special letters because each is addressed to a special person, such as Timothy or to a church in a specific place, such as Romans. The remaining letters are called general letters because they are not addressed to any particular person or group. Four of Paul's letters are called prison epistles. **Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.** Paul wrote these while in prison.

**Other Letters** - The remaining seven letters were written by four authors and each is named for its writer. They are James, I Peter, II Peter, I John, II John, III John and Jude.

**Book of Prophecy** - Revelation is the one book of prophecy in the New Testament. The writer was John the Apostle. The book records the revelation Jesus gave him while he was in exile on the island of Patmos. It pictures conflict between good and evil but teaches the final victory of Christ and his people.

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## **How to Study the Bible**

### **Purpose of Bible Study:**

To know God and His Son, Jesus Christ through repentance and faith. If we come to know the Book but do not come to know God and His Son Jesus Christ, we have failed and the purpose of God has been defeated. To guide our lives in living and practicing our faith. If we come to know the Book but do not not come to live by the Book, this too is failure. James 1:22 Be doers, not hearers only

### **Three Rules to Follow in Bible Study**

**First Rule:** In considering any passage of scripture, keep carefully in mind the following rule -- Any passage of scripture is to be studied in its immediate context. To determine the context of any passage, try to answer the following questions about it: (1) Who is speaking? (2) To whom is he speaking? (3) For what purpose or purposes is he speaking?

It must be kept in mind that while the scriptures are the Word of God, they also contain, in recorded conversations and histories of events, the words of others. Besides God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit they record, at places, even the words of the devil, or of evil misguided or uninformed men.

**Second Rule:** Each scripture should be interpreted in the light of all other scriptures. We must know something of that which precedes and what follows.

For example, in the New Testament, answers given to people seeking salvation seem to be different. One was told to believe (*Acts 16:30, 31*), others were told to repent (*Acts 2:37, 38*), and another was told to be baptized and was away his sins (*Acts 22:16*). There might appear to be confusion. However, when all these passages and others are taken into consideration, the explanation is apparent. Each one was told to take in consideration of the steps, which he has already taken. When we know the WHOLE story, it is plain that all the converts BELIEVED and REPENTED and were BAPTIZED.

**Third Rule:** Keep in mind that there are two testaments -- the Old and the New. A distinction must be made between the two. The word 'testament' means 'will' or 'covenant'. Therefore, New Testament, is under the New Testament, and under the Christians dispensation of grace and not under the Mosaic Rule of Law. This does not do away with the Old Testament, for it is a book from God as preparation for the New. It helps to understand the New and contains valuable lessons of righteousness. Yet, to know what to do to be saved today, we MUST go to the New Testament.

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## PERSONAL WORK, BIBLE STUDY, II Timothy 2:15

### I. How to Study the Bible. Cont'd

1. **Independently** -- Do not depend upon the many religious books; Get knowledge of your own. *Psalm 119:18*
2. **Continuously** -- Only by reading the bible daily may we get a general View of its contents? Create a special love for the bible. *Joshua 1:8, 23:12*
3. **Meditatively** -- Psalms for devotions, epistles for daily living, Proverbs for The consequences of expressed actions, Acts and I John for young converts.
4. **Prayerfully** -- any book is best understood when we talk with the author!  
*II Peter 1:21, I Corinthians 2:13, 14*
5. **Biographically** -- take great lives like Noah, Abraham, Moses, Daniel, Paul -- Study their relation to God, to their time, their character message, then make a Personal application. *I Corinthians 10:1-15*
6. **Historically** -- Actual events. Movement of nations, geographical location Of places, light on customs, mountains, cities, rivers, seas, etc.
7. **Systemically** -- Read write and commit text and its location to memory.  
*Luke 4:16-20*
8. **Topically** -- **God** Christ, Man, Heaven, Satan, Hell; find out what the Bible Teaches about these. *II Timothy 3:16, 17*
9. **Inductively** -- **Ask** such questions as When/Where/Why/and How it is Written. Its objects, etc. And answer them. *Philippians 2:17, 18, 4:4, Colossians 1:13-19, 2:4-23*
10. **Deductively** -- **take** a book verse by verse, word by word; analyze the thoughts In relation to the entire book. Try a very short book at first, Jude, Titus.

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**II Why should we Study the Bible?**

1. It is the source of life. I Peter 1:23, James 1:18-21
2. It is the source of strength. I John 2:14, James 1: 5-9
3. It is the source of cleansing. Psalms 119:9, Ephesians 5:26
4. It is the source of wisdom. Psalms 19:7, 119:99, 100
5. It is the source of fruit. John 15:4, 5. Colossians 1:6
6. It is the source of victory over sin. Psalms 119:11
7. It is the source of light. Psalms 119:105
8. It is the source of faith. Romans 10:17, Luke 5:5

Note: You cannot afford to neglect the Word of God. It is your supreme authority.  
In it, you will find your Lord, the will of God, and the ability to do that will.



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## **REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. Who is the ultimate source of the Bible?**
- 2. About how many human writers of the Bible were there?**
- 3. How can we account for the perfect harmony of all the writings of the Bible?**
- 4. Name the books of Law.**
- 5. Name the books of History.**
- 6. Name the books of Poetry.**
- 7. What is the meaning of the word 'Genesis'? also of 'Exodus'?**
- 8. Give the division of the New Testament and the number of books in each.**
- 9. Name the Gospels.**
- 10. Who wrote the book of Acts?**
- 11. Name the New Testament Letters and their authors.**
- 12. Who wrote the book of Revelations?**
- 13. Give two purposes of Bible Study.**
- 14. Give three rules of studying the scriptures.**