



PART 1: WHAT IS THE BIBLE ALL ABOUT?

Sermon Notes

Text: John 5:31-40, 45-47

Introduction

The Bible is a collection of 66 books/letters (39 OT, 27 NT), written in 3 languages over a period of more than 1,000 years by over 40 authors on 3 continents.

“A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college Education.”

55% of Canadians never read the Bible. 11% read it once a week or more frequently (Evangelical Fellowship of Canada).

44% of churchgoers report reading the Bible more than once per week. 18% of churchgoers report rarely or never reading the Bible. 60% have read the whole Bible in their lifetime (Lifeway Research).

Three foundational questions:

1. What is the Bible?

The Bible is the testimony of God (John 5:31-32)

The Bible is the Word of God (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

Hebrews 4:12-13

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2. What is the Bible about?

John 5:39-40

Every story, every law, every passage is about Jesus.

“The Bible is to us what the star was to the wise men; but if we spend all our time in gazing upon it, observing its motions, and admiring its splendour, without being led to Christ by it, the use of it will be lost on us”
~Bruxy Cavey

Acts 13:27

We can know every Bible story, yet miss *the* Bible story

John 1:1-5, 14

3. Why should I read it?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible equips us, it connects us, and it shapes us into who God is making us to be.

Read the Bible not just for information, but for formation.

Conclusion:

Bethel Church Penticton - Sunday June 19, 2016 - Pastor Dave Funk

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What did you find most interesting, challenging or intriguing about Sunday's message? Did you learn anything new about the Bible? Or come to appreciate it in a new way? How so?

Study & Discussion:

1. If someone asked you "What is the Bible?" how would you answer them? What would you say if they asked you what it's about? What kinds of questions have people asked you about the Bible? How have you responded? What are some of your questions about it?
2. Read Hebrews 4:12-13. What makes the Bible the "word of God"? In what ways is it "alive and active"? This passage seems to indicate that the Bible is reading us as much as we are reading it. How does that work?
3. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What does it mean for the Bible to be "God-breathed"? How does the Bible "train" us? How has it trained you? When is the last time you let the Bible "correct" or "rebuke" you?

Application:

1. According to research, Bible engagement (reading, study, discussion) is directly connected to spiritual growth. How will you increase your Bible engagement this week?

Prayer:

1. Pray for the discipline to increase your Bible engagement.
2. Other Requests
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