

# Read God's Word (2 Peter 1:15-21)

## 1. What God's Word is

Verse 15

*"And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things."*

Verse 19

*"And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed"*

Verse 21

*"For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."*

### Other texts of importance

Hebrews 1:1-2

2 Peter 3:15-16

2 Timothy 3:15-17

Matthew 4:4

*1689 LC, Chapter 1, Paragraph 1.*

The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience,<sup>1</sup> although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men inexcusable; yet they are not sufficient to

give that knowledge of God and His will which is necessary unto salvation.<sup>2</sup> Therefore it pleased the Lord at sundry times and in diversified manners to reveal Himself, and to declare (that) His will unto His church;<sup>3</sup> and afterward for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan, and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing; which makes the Holy Scriptures to be most necessary, those former ways of God's revealing His will unto His people being now completed.<sup>4</sup>

1 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Isa. 8:20; Luke 16:29,31; Eph. 2:20

2 Rom. 1:19-21, 2:14,15; Psalm 19:1-3

3 Heb. 1:1

4 Prov. 22:19-21; Rom. 15:4; 2 Pet. 1:19,20

*1689 LC, Chapter 1, Paragraph 2 and 3.*

Gives us the specific books to be included in the Bible as God's inspired Word, i.e. the 39 OT, 27 NT books, and not the apocrypha.

## 2. Why God's Word must be read

Verse 21 shows that Scripture is from God - don't you want to know what our Creator has to say?

In verse 19 God tells us we would do well to "*pay attention to it*", which means we must read it.

The Devil aims to keep you from doing the one thing that is most beneficial for you.

Whether we take reading the Bible seriously, or not, is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, measure of whether we have departed from the authority of the bible.

### Other texts of importance

Psalm 1

Colossians 3:16

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Psalm 119:11

John 4:24

Mark 7:7

*1689 LC, Chapter 1, Paragraph 4.*

The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, depends not upon the testimony of any man or church, but wholly upon God (who is truth itself), the author thereof; therefore it is to be received because it is the Word of God.<sup>7</sup>

7 2 Pet. 1:19-21; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 John 5:9

*1689 LC, Chapter 1, Paragraph 6.*

The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down or necessarily contained in the Holy Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelation of the Spirit, or traditions of men.<sup>9</sup>

9 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Gal. 1:8,9

*1689 LC, Chapter 1, Paragraph 8.*

...[the] Word of God dwelling plentifully in all, [allows us to] worship Him in an acceptable manner, and through patience and comfort of the Scriptures may have hope.<sup>19</sup>

19 Col. 3:16

Cf. Chapter 22, Paragraph 1 (chapter on "Religious Worship")

### **3. How God's Word should be read**

#### **1. Read God's Word Daily**

2. Read God's Word Prayerfully
3. Read all of God's Word
4. Don't be too bound to a reading plan
5. Meditate on and Study God's Word
6. Read God's Word over and over, repeatedly
7. Memorise God's Word
8. Read God's Word together as well as alone
9. Read God's Word Grammatically
10. Read God's Word Historically
11. Read God's Word Theologically

Aim to understand the mind of God behind every part of supernaturally inspired Scripture.

Scripture must be used to interpret Scripture, since God is the best interpreter of what He has moved men to write.

And those harder to understand parts of Scripture we don't give as much weight as the easier to understand parts.

*1689 LC, Chapter 1, Paragraph 9.*

The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself; and therefore when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture (which are not many, but one), it must be searched by other places that speak more clearly.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>20</sup> 2 Pet. 1:20, 21; Acts 15:15, 16