

Subject: *The Holy Scriptures – Part 3*

Scripture: *Psalm 19:1-11*

This psalm refers to the two ways God reveals himself to us: the physical world (vs. 1-6) and the written Word (vs. 7-9). We are thankful for His revelation in the physical world. It reveals God's greatness, power, wisdom, and faithfulness. We are even more thankful for His revelation in the written Word. It also reveals His greatness, power, wisdom, and faithfulness, and it reveals so much more: God's holiness, righteousness, tri-unity, eternity, goodness, mercy, grace, patience, and unchangeable nature.

This is the fourth message in our series "What We Teach." So far we have looked at the importance of biblical doctrine and the Scriptures. We have learned about the authority of Scripture and we looked last time at the clarity of Scripture. I want to continue on that theme in today's message: the clarity of Scripture. The Bible was meant to be understood, so we can believe it and obey it.

THE CLARITY OF SCRIPTURE

A. Scripture can be understood by all people

Deuteronomy 29:29 *The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

Romans 15:4 *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

God has kept some things to himself, but some things He has revealed to us. He wants us to know, believe, and obey what he has written and preserved.

Psalms 19:7-11 ⁷ *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.* ⁸ *The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.* ⁹ *The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.* ¹⁰ *More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.* ¹¹ *Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*

Look at the things that God's Word does: convert the soul; makes wise the simple; rejoices the heart; enlightens the eyes; warns us; and rewards us when we obey. Obviously none of these things would be possible if we didn't understand what God said.

Look again at verse 10. How could we desire something more valuable than gold if we don't understand it? How could we taste the sweetness of God's truth if we don't understand it?

B. Scripture can be understood at all ages

2 Timothy 3:15 *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

Timothy not only had the holy Scriptures, but he knew the holy Scriptures.

C. Scripture can be understood only with God's help

Scripture was given by inspiration of God. Scripture is understood by illumination from God.

1 Corinthians 2:9-16 ⁹ *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰ But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. ¹³ Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. ¹⁶ For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

Verses 9-11 have to do with revelation (what God has revealed in his Word).

Verses 12-13 have to do with inspiration (how God inspired and recorded his Word).

Verses 14-16 have to do with illumination (how God helps us understand his Word).

D. Scripture can be understood only by prayer

Psalms 119:18 *Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.*

This is the Bible student's prayer: "Lord, I need help. Open my spiritual eyes to understand."

E. Scripture can be understood only by careful study

2 Timothy 2:15 *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Rightly dividing means we handle it carefully. We strive for accuracy. Paul may have had in mind his work as a tentmaker. He would lay out his materials and measure them carefully and cut them precisely and put them together with attention to detail.

Even the men who wrote Scripture struggled to understand some parts of the Bible.

2 Peter 3:15-16 ¹⁵ *And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; ¹⁶ As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*

Notice that Paul said *some things* and not all things are hard to understand.

Notice that he said some things are *hard to understand*, but not impossible to understand.

F. Scripture can be understood only with a teachable heart

A teachable heart is a heart eager and willing to learn; a heart that is hungry for truth; a heart that is humble and ready to believe and obey what God says.