

You Can Understand the Bible

Luke 1:1-4

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

The Bible is the _____-_____ book of all time and comes today in hundreds of languages. Some think the Bible is too _____ to understand. Is it really? God's way is always a _____. God loves us and He gave us His will in written form in the Bible so that every age and nation could _____ the truth and be _____. God wants every person to _____ and to _____ His will.

Some people think the Bible is just too _____ to understand. Perhaps you've heard people say, "The Bible is not _____ to be understood." Or, "The Bible says different things to different _____." Or, "What is important is not so much what the Bible says but what the Bible says to _____." I've heard people claim, "The New Testament addressed the _____ of the first century but really doesn't speak to us today."

Others dismiss God's Word by saying, "It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are _____ and love Jesus." Then there's the skeptic who says, "You can make the Bible say anything you _____ it to say." Some say, "You just take a passage of Scripture and you read it to a group of people and there'll be as many _____ of that passage as there are people in the room."

These popular charges against the Bible lose sight of God's _____ in giving us His Word. They seem to forget about God's incredible _____ to have a relationship with us that lasts for an eternity. That relationship means that we can know _____ and know His _____. The Lord Jesus promised, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you _____" (John 8:31-32).

Our reading comes from the opening words of The Gospel According to Luke 1:1-4. Is the Bible meant to be understood? The answer is yes, but don't take my word for it. Let's see what the Bible has to say for itself. Psalm 19:8 says, "The precepts of the LORD are _____, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is _____, enlightening the eyes." Psalm 119:18 says, "Open my eyes, that I may _____ wonderful things from Your law." Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a _____ to my feet and a _____ to my path." Psalm 119:125 says, "I am Your servant; give me understanding, that I may _____ Your testimonies." Psalm 119:130 says, "The unfolding of Your words gives _____; it gives understanding to the simple." Proverbs 6:23 says, "For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; and reproofs for discipline are the _____ of life."

When people say the Bible is not meant to be understood, I wonder how they came to that conclusion. Did they get it from the _____ or from other people? Surprisingly, some

churches don't want you to _____ your Bible. These churches worry that if you read your Bible, you'll find out what the Bible actually says and that it's _____ from what they teach and practice. The Bible has God's _____ attached to it, and it challenges those who vary from it.

The apostle Paul _____ in Scripture about this kind of problem, and even in his day there were people who were misusing and tampering with God's Word. **Read 2 Corinthians 4:2-4.**

The devil will do anything, anything to keep people from understanding the _____ of God's Word. He'd love nothing more than to _____ people to the gospel so they won't know the truth. Satan will _____ with the Word to convince you to believe something that's only partially true. He realizes his message must _____ true or you won't buy into it. If he tells a _____ that sounds true, he might lead some folks astray. If he can make his lie really _____, he will. But when people obey the lie rather than _____ to God, they're deceived with a counterfeit religion. The devil has supplied plenty of counterfeits in our world today.

We wouldn't know what the truth is and what error is if it weren't for this permanent _____ of truth in the Bible. The Word of God provides that standard of truth for _____ time. God's Word is settled in heaven and it doesn't _____. It's this stability, this security, this solid foundation that allows Christians to remain _____ to God. God was wise to give His message to mankind in _____ form in the Bible because by giving us the Bible, we can know the truth which makes us free. The difference between Christ's true disciples and other people is that true disciples _____ in the Word of God, while the others _____ away from the Word.

So, we must stay with God's Word. God expected ancient Israelite parents to _____ their children the Law of God. The Lord God was concerned that a generation might arise that didn't know His _____. **Read what Moses commanded them in Deuteronomy 31:10-13.** If the Bible were so _____ to understand, God wouldn't have commanded all Israel to read the law every seven years. Truly, we _____ understand the Bible. The Bible says, "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are _____ belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deuteronomy 29:29). God gave us His Word to bless us.

Read what Deuteronomy 30:11-14 explains. God not only wants us to understand it, He also _____ us to love and obey it.

The Word of God went out to _____ Israel. There were all kinds of people _____. There were the people who might be wise, and then there were the naïve; there were people who were conservative, and there were people who were liberal; there were people who were

educated, the young, and the old. Those who didn't know God's Law were expected to _____ the Law and _____ it. You're not an exception. God expects you to know His will.

First Timothy 2:3-4 says, "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the _____ of the truth." God doesn't communicate in riddles, nor does He hold back some _____ message for only the select few. Oh, no! God wants _____ to be able to know the truth, to be saved, and to live in heaven with Him. The Bible says in Hebrews 2:9 that Jesus tasted _____ for every person. Why then would God give us a Bible with the words of _____, but give it in a way that we couldn't understand it? That's ridiculous.

When God inspired Luke to _____ one of the four gospel accounts, He chose this Greek Gentile to write to a Roman authority about Jesus Christ, a Jew. Luke didn't grow up knowing about God, and Theophilus had only heard bits and pieces. **Read what the inspired Luke wrote in Luke 1:1-4.** Theophilus apparently wanted to know the truth, and Luke said that he could tell him with _____ the things concerning Jesus Christ. The Bible was written to impart to us _____ knowledge, _____ knowledge, and the _____ knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Read what the apostle John said in John 20:30-31. God gave us this book, the Bible, so that we might _____ in Jesus Christ and be saved and have life in His name. I cannot imagine why, if this is the _____ of the Bible, that God would write something that nobody can understand. The fact is we can understand what we _____ to know to be saved and go to heaven and live with God forever!

Read Acts 17:2-4. The Scripture is not some strange _____, but it's a book that gives life and tells the marvelous story of Jesus Christ.

From this inspired book, we learn the most wonderful story of _____ and _____. To some it may be meaningless, but to us it's the _____ meaningful story in the entire world. I'm so thankful that God chose men and inspired them to _____ that story down in the first century so that we could hear it, and we could read it as it really happened, and could believe and obey it. The New Testament gives us _____ accounts of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, a story of good news that saves our souls. There simply is no better, no more important, no more meaningful story in the entire world.

The gospel provides God's _____ unto salvation to everyone who believes it, according to Romans 1:16. God knew that He had to _____ Himself to mankind if they were to know and believe in Him and find salvation. We also can know some things through observing the universe, but we can't know the _____ story; we can't know it apart from the Word of God. The Bible says, "For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, then God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the _____ preached to save those who believe" (1 Corinthians 1:21). If we want to know

the _____ truth about God, we must go to His Word. Our task is to hear it, believe it, love it, obey it, and share it with others. Oh, thank God for the Bible!

The apostle Paul said, “For we write nothing else to you than what you _____ and _____, and I hope you’ll understand until the end” (2 Corinthians 1:13). Paul wrote no other thing but what the Corinthians could understand; and we too can understand the Bible.

In fact, we must understand the Word of God and _____ it. Why? Because one day we will be _____ by the Word of God. The Lord Jesus said, “He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the _____ that I spoke is what will judge him at the last day” (John 12:48). My friend, you and I will be judged one day by the Words that are _____ in this book. We will stand before God and we’ll have to give an _____ for our lives, and the standard will be these written Words.

The Lord Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who _____ the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter” (Matthew 7:21). We must know what the will of God is. The purest _____ of God’s will is found in the New Testament. So don’t settle for anything _____ than the Scriptures. They will lead you to an _____ knowledge of the Lord’s will. And they will give you the unfailing truth that _____ to eternal life. What kind of God says, “I’m going to judge you by the things _____ in the books” (Revelation 20:11-15 and John 12:48), but then gives us a book that people _____ understand? Wouldn’t such a God be a monster? But our God isn’t like that. He gives us a book so that we _____ understand. Our God loves us and wants all men to be _____ and to know the truth. Shouldn’t we strive to know His will? If knowing and doing the will of God is the difference between eternal life and death, can we afford to _____ what He says?

The apostle Paul said, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one _____, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). God wants us to _____ the Bible so that we will know the truth and not be ashamed on the Day of Judgment because we didn’t follow the teaching of the Bible. Proverbs 23:23 says, “Buy truth, and do not sell it, get wisdom and instruction and understanding.”

I hope you’ll follow those _____ and that you’ll come to Christ. To hear the Words of Christ and believe them is a part of what it means to come to Him. Do that; _____ of your sins and _____ the name of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Repentance means that you _____ your heart; you leave sin and you turn to the ways of God. So with love and faith and repentance, be _____ for the forgiveness of your sins as Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16 teach. The baptism of Christ is an immersion. When you do, God will _____ you with His grace and forgiveness and add you to His _____. He’ll make you His child and give you an inheritance with Him. My friend, won’t you do that? Won’t you do it today?