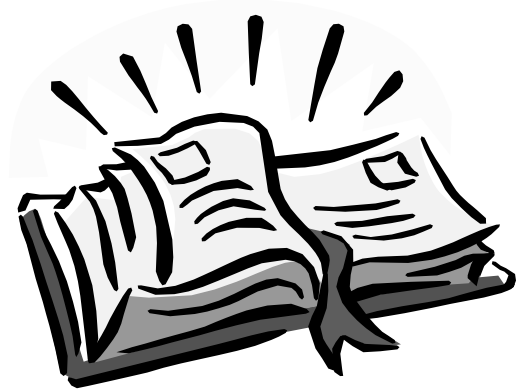


What
Does the
Bible
Really Say?



A series of Bible studies to encourage personal growth.

Material compiled by
Carl McMurray



What Does The Bible Really Say?

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What Does The Bible Really Say?

CONGRATULATIONS

Let me commend you for beginning this series of lessons. It says a great deal about you that you are interested in discovering what the Bible teaches about one's salvation, worship, the church, faithfulness toward God, and a host of other important subjects.

As you study, I want to encourage you to ask questions. The one who has given you this material and/or is leading this class is doing so because they care about your spiritual condition and your eternal destiny. They will not consider your questions as foolish or a waste of time. They want you to talk about any doubts or questions that may arise in your study because it is only by study and open discussion with one another that we can grow in wisdom and knowledge in the word of God. They also want you to ask questions because they too are still learning and growing. A new viewpoint can be a refreshing look at old Scriptures and your teacher will welcome any new information that arises from genuine interest and study of the word.

Most of the material in this series will use "fill in the blank" type of questions. The advantage to that is two-fold. First, it makes it easier for the novice Bible student to find the answers and become familiar with God's word in the process. Secondly, it causes the student to see God's answer in Scripture and read it for themselves rather than each student coming up with their own conclusions. There can only be real unity between believers when we sacrifice our own thoughts and ideas and stand on God's word alone.

Although any good version of Scripture can be used to search out answers, obviously the easiest one to match to the blanks will be the one that this series is based on. I have used ***THE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*** as the basis for this study because of its easy readability and excellent reputation for accuracy and faithfulness to the original text. I have tried to be as true to the Scriptures as possible with the questions and discussion, but there is always the possibility of human error, so be sure to read and study the Scriptures carefully. If you need a New American Standard Bible to study with, please be comfortable in asking the teacher or the person who gave you this material, and one will be gladly provided for your assistance.

I hope you find the Bible lessons in this series interesting and challenging. Your feedback on this series of lessons would be welcomed and there is a second series on Christian Growth that follows this one if you are interested.

Carl McMurray
mcmurray@Spiritbuilding.com

The title of the next series of lessons is **INSIDE OUT** and can be ordered at www.Spiritbuilding.com



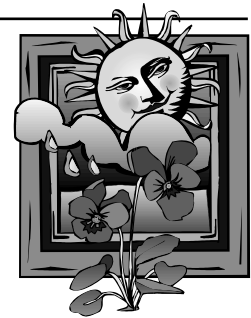
Why Accept the Bible as God's Word?

INTRODUCTION

More and more people today are expressing grave doubts about the Bible being God's revelation to man. In many cases the reason that this is being done is not because these people have considered the evidence and seriously weighed the conclusions. The reason there is so much doubt today is because smear campaigns being waged by Satan to shake the faith of men in God's word are vocal and numerous. To grasp my meaning, just think of all the people that you have ever heard express doubt in the Bible and compare that number to the number of people you have heard express complete confidence. In the media and personally, we are often inundated with the idea that the Bible is "just another book of religion." We are told that it's untrustworthy because "it has been translated so many times," or "it's full of errors and contradictions." If one is willing to fairly examine the evidence, he will discover that in every way possible God has given us the means to PROVE His book is the book of books. The above generic criticisms of the Bible are false and have yet to be proven after almost 2,000 years. We encourage you to "taste" some of the reasons why it is logical and acceptable to believe that the Bible is truly the word of God to man.

BECAUSE WE NEED REVELATION...

WE CANNOT KNOW GOD FROM NATURE.

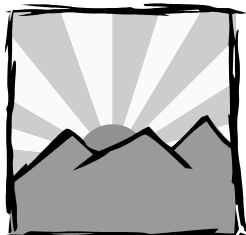


1. It is possible to examine the natural world and know ABOUT God, but it is NOT possible to KNOW GOD just by looking at nature. Romans 1:18-20 explains this. Paul writes that the wrath of God is revealed against

_____, because that which is known about God is evident _____ for God made it evident. Verse 20 goes on to say that since _____ His invisible attributes have been clearly seen through _____, so that they are without excuse.

2. Another passage that teaches us that we can know ABOUT God by examining His creation is Psalms 19:1-4. David writes, _____ are telling of the glory of God and _____

_____ is declaring the work of _____. Day to day _____, and night to night _____. God's creation speaks of the creator, if we will but listen. Knowing about God though, and knowing God are two different things.



BECAUSE...

we need revelation,
of its literary unity,
of fulfilled prophecy.