

-You Can Understand the Bible
Luke 4:1-4

In **John 8:31-32**, Jesus makes us a promise, He said, *“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

Is the Bible meant to be understood? The answer to that question is *“yes, yes, it is.”* Here are some scriptures that speaks to this topic: **Psalm 19:8** says, *“The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living” (NLT).* **Psalm 119:18** says, *“Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions.”* Then in **verse 105** we read, *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (NLT).* **Now verse 125**, *“I am your servant; give me understanding, that I may know your testimonies!” (NLT).* Then **verse 130**, *“The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple” (NLT).* And in **Prov. 6:23** we read, *“For their command is a lamp and their instruction a light; their corrective discipline is the way to life” (NLT).*

God not only meant for people to read the Bible, he wanted them to follow it in their daily lives, after all it *“imparts understanding to the simple”* and it’s *“corrective discipline is the way to life.”*

The apostle Paul warned in Scripture for people not to misuse or tamper with the word of God, in **2 Cor. 4:2-4** we read, *“We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don’t try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this. If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God” (NLT).*

The devil will do anything to keep people from understanding the truth of God’s word. He’d love nothing more than to blind people to the gospel so they won’t know the truth. Satan will tamper with the word to convince you to believe something that is only partially true. **Why partially true?** It is partially true to give a soundness to the message, or otherwise you wouldn’t believe it. If he tells a lie that sounds true, he might lead some astray. If he can make the lie appealing, he will. *But when people obey the lie rather than listen to God, they are deceived with a counterfeit religion. And the devil has supplied plenty of counterfeits in our world today.*

We wouldn’t know the truth *if it were not for the permanent standard of truth in the Bible.* The word of God provides that standard of truth for all time. God’s word is settled in heaven and it does not change. It is this stability, this security, this solid foundation, that allows Christians to remain united to God. God was wise to give to us His message in written 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 His true disciples remain in the word of God.**

So, we - his true disciples, must stay with God’s word, the Bible. **God expected the ancient Israelite parents to teach their children the Law of God.** The Lord God was concerned that a

generation would arise which did not know Him, or His commandments. So, Moses gave this command in **Deut. 31:10-13**, *“Then Moses gave them this command: “At the end of every seventh year, the Year of Release, during the Festival of Shelters, you must read this Book of Instruction to all the people of Israel when they assemble before the LORD your God at the place he chooses. Call them all together—men, women, children, and the foreigners living in your towns—so they may hear this Book of Instruction and learn to fear the LORD your God and carefully obey all the terms of these instructions. Do this so that your children who have not known these instructions will hear them and will learn to fear the LORD your God. Do this as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy” (NLT).*

Now if the Bible were so hard to understand, God wouldn't have commanded all Israel to go through this event every seven years. *Truly we can understand the Bible.* The Bible also tells us in **Deut. 29:29** that, *“The LORD our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions” (NLT).* God has given us His Word to bless us.

The Lord God further explains in **Deut. 30:11-14**, *“This command I am giving you today is not too difficult for you, and it is not beyond your reach. It is not kept in heaven, so distant that you must ask, ‘Who will go up to heaven and bring it down so we can hear it and obey?’ It is not kept beyond the sea, so far away that you must ask, ‘Who will cross the sea to bring it to us so we can hear it and obey?’ No, the message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart so that you can obey it” (NLT).* God not only wants us to understand it, *He also expects us to love and obey it.*

The word went out to all Israel. There were all kinds of people listening. Those who didn't know God's law *were expected to learn the law and obey it.* There were no exceptions. God expects everybody to learn and obey His law.

1 Tim. 2:3-4 says, *“This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (ESV).* God doesn't communicate in riddles, nor does He hold back some secret message for the select few, nor has he hidden messages in His word. *God wants everyone to be able to know the truth, to be saved, and to live in heaven with Him.* Jesus, the bible says in **Heb. 2:9**, tasted death for every person. Why then would God give us a Bible with the words of life, but give it in a way that we can't understand it?

When God inspired Luke to write one of the four gospels, He chose this Greek Gentile to write to a Roman authority about Jesus Christ, a Jew. Now Luke didn't grow up knowing about God, and Theophilus had only heard bits and pieces, so here is what the inspired Luke wrote in **Luke 1:1-4**, *“Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught” (NLT).*

Apparently, Theophilus, wanted to know the truth, and Luke said that he could tell him **with certainty** (that is exact knowledge) the things concerning Jesus Christ. The Bible was written to impart to us true knowledge, that is exact knowledge, saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

The apostle John in his gospel wrote, *“The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. **But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name**” (John 20:30-31, NLT).* God gave us this book, the Bible, so that we might believe in Jesus Christ and by believing be saved and have life in His name. If this is the purpose of the Bible, I cannot think of any reason, God would choose to be deceptive and not write so all could read, understand, and be saved. *The fact is: we can understand what we need to know to be saved and go to heaven and live with God forever!*

In the book of **Acts 17:2-4**, God tells us, *“As was Paul’s custom, he went to the synagogue service, and for three Sabbaths in a row he used the Scriptures to reason with the people. He explained the prophecies and proved that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead. He said, “This Jesus I’m telling you about is the Messiah.” Some of the Jews who listened were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with many God-fearing Greek men and quite a few prominent women.” Paul could use the wisdom of the Bible, to convince people that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah of God to save all people from their sins.*

From this inspired book, we learn the most wonderful story of love and sacrifice. To some it may be meaningless, *but to us who believe and are being saved, it is the most meaningful story in the entire world.* I am most thankful that God chose men and inspired them to write down this story in the first century so that we today could hear and understand God’s story of salvation for the world, it is literally the words of life for everyone who believes and obeys. Then New Testament gives us eyewitness accounts of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, a story of good news that has the power to save our souls. There is simply no better, no more important, no more meaningful story in all the world.

*The gospel provides God’s power unto salvation to everyone who believes it, according to **Romans 1:16**.* You see, God knew that He had to reveal Himself to mankind, and if they were to know and believe in Him, they would find salvation. *While it is true that we can know somethings about God by observing the universe, but **we cannot know the full story apart from the Word of God.** **1 Cor. 1:21** tells us, “So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world’s brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.”* 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, and share it with others. Let us thank God for our Bible.

The apostle Paul in **2 Cor. 1:13** wrote, *“Our letters have been straightforward, and there is nothing written between the lines and nothing you can’t understand. I hope someday you will fully understand us...”* 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 in order to obey it. **Why you ask?** *Because one day we will be judged by the word of God.* The Lord Jesus in **John 12:48** said, ***“The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.”*** On the last day – that is the Day of Judgment – we will be judged by the words written in the Bible. We will stand before God and we must then give an account of our lives, *and the standard used for judgment will be the words of Jesus written in this book.*

Jesus Himself said in **Mt. 7:21**: ***“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.”*** To be able to live properly, we must know what the will of God is. The purest source of God’s will is found in the New Testament. So, don’t settle for anything less than the Scriptures. They will lead you to an exact knowledge of the Lord’s will. And they will give you the unfailing truth that leads to eternal life.

Think with me. What kind of God says, ***“I’m going to judge you by the things written in the books”*** (**Rev. 20:11-15 and John 12:48**), but then gives you a book you cannot understand? Our God isn’t like that, He gives us a book so that we can understand. Our God loves us and wants all men to be saved and to know the truth. Shouldn’t we then strive to know His will? **If knowing and doing that will is the difference between life and death, can we afford to ignore what He says?**

The apostle Paul in **2 Tim. 2:15** said, ***“Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.”*** God wants us to study the Bible so that we will not only know the truth, but be able to correctly teach it to others. **Proverbs 23:23** says, ***“Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.”***

I hope you will follow those teachings and come to Christ. If you’re are ready to obey **Acts 2:38**, then contact me and I will ready everything for you. Let’s pray!