

Weekly Grace — (compiled by your Chaplain)

Can We Trust Our Bible?

Adapted from: <https://brittleallen.com/2016/11/ladies-you-can-trust-your-bible/>

I'm certain there are some people who, for whatever reason, just plain don't trust either the Bible, or their ability to understand it. Maybe they grew up in a church or denomination that questioned the authority of the bible. Or told them not to read it for themselves without expert help. Regardless of the reason, if we can read, we can understand the Bible! And we can trust what we read.

God's True and Unchanging Word

God's Word in the Bible is true, unchanging, sufficient and inerrant. We can and should trust God's Word because *God* is completely sovereign, unchangeable, and trustworthy:

- Sovereign: *"Our God is in the heavens, he does whatever he pleases."* (Psalm 115:3)
- Unchangeable: *"For I the Lord do not change."* (Malachi 3:6)
- Trustworthy: *"God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?"* (Numbers 23:19)

If God is sovereign over all, he is sovereign over his Word and the preservation of his Word. Because God *is* sovereign, we *can* trust that he was in control over the men who compiled the bible we have today, and that God's word will never pass away (Matthew 24:35, Hebrews 4:13).

Psalm 19:7-11 says: *"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward."*

The bible claims to be truth. In fact, Jesus is called *"the Word"* (John 1:1-5) and he also calls himself *"the truth"* (John 14:6). So the Word of God is true and sure. It's inerrant and perfect.

God's Understandable Word

Some people believe it's not possible to understand the bible, so they figure, why bother trying? But scripture begs to differ!

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence (2 Peter 1:3 ESV)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV)

According to these passages, we must be *able* to reprove, teach and grow in Godliness through the Word of God. If that's true, then we *must* be able to understand it! You can't teach and grow in something that's not understandable.

When we read, we should know to interpret scripture with scripture, since *"knowing first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 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"* (2 Peter 1:20-21).

Furthermore, 2 Timothy 3:16 makes the claim that *"all scripture is breathed out by God."* The Bible is the key to its own lock – so if we don't understand something, we keep reading!

Reading the Bible is a Supernatural Act

"...the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12 ESV)

A key part of understanding the Bible is to ask the divine Author for help! As we read, let's pray to God that he would help us understand the Bible and to put what we do understand into practice.

I pray the Lord would cause us to fall in love with the God who breathed out his word and breathed this world, and us, into existence. Let's pray . . . *"Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."* (Psalm 119:18) *"Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name."* (Psalm 86:11) *"Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days."* (Psalm 90:14) . . . then let's read!