

# BIBLE BASIC'S

*A Foundational Study for a Christian's walk.*

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2: 15





## Overview

Lesson 1:	Introduction; What IS the Bible?
Lesson 2:	How to study the Bible
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Lesson 6:	Attributes of God
Lesson 7:	Answered Prayer
Lesson 8:	Confession and Forgiveness
Lesson 9:	The Church: Fellowship and Spiritual Gifts
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These are the lessons for **Bible Basic's**. The material used to compile this course has come from numerous lessons, books, and writing; but primarily from the Word of God. The goal of the course is to lead new Christians, those who have recently accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, on a proper path of understanding and provide a foundation for deeper study. It is also hoped that older Christians, wishing to relearn or develop a deeper understanding of the Word of God, will gain a closer walk with Him.

The lessons and format have been modeled after “*Fundamentals of the Christian Faith*” lesson plan (Author unknown). We hope that there is not a problem in so doing.

**Also, every effort has been made to insure that the doctrines and teaching of a local, New Testament church have been followed and the teachings are always in complete agreement with the Word of God.**

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” -Matthew 28: 18-20

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Neither Have You Tasted My Jesus  
by: Mark Dunn

At the University of Chicago Divinity School each year, they have what is called "Baptist Day". It is a day when all the Baptists in the area are invited to the school.

On this day each one is to bring a lunch to be eaten outdoors in a grassy picnic area. Every "Baptist Day" the school would invite one of the greatest minds to lecture in the theological education center.

One year they invited Dr. Paul Tillich. Dr. Tillich spoke for two and one-half hours proving that the resurrection of Jesus was false. He quoted scholar after scholar and book after book. He concluded that since there was no such thing as the historical resurrection, the religious tradition of the church was groundless, emotional mumbo-jumbo, because it was based on a relationship with a risen Jesus, who, in fact, never rose from the dead in any literal sense. He then asked if there were any questions.

After about 30 seconds, an old, dark-skinned preacher with a head of short-cropped, woolly white hair stood up in the back of the auditorium. "Docta Tillich, I got one question," he said as all eyes turned toward him. He reached into his sack lunch and pulled out an apple and began eating it.

"Docta Tillich ..." CRUNCH, MUNCH ... "My question is a simple question, CRUNCH, MUNCH ..." "Now I ain't never read them books you read... CRUNCH, MUNCH ..." "and I can't recite the Scriptures in the original Greek... CRUNCH, MUNCH ..." "I don't know nothin' about Niebuhr and Heidegger... CRUNCH, MUNCH ..." He finished the apple. "All I wanna know is, This apple I just ate - was it bitter or sweet?" Dr. Tillich paused for a moment and answered in exemplary scholarly fashion: "I cannot possibly answer that question, for I haven't tasted your apple. "The white-haired preacher dropped the core of his apple into his crumpled paper bag, looked up at Dr. Tillich and said calmly, "Neither have you tasted my Jesus."

The 1,000 plus in attendance could not contain themselves. The auditorium erupted with applause and cheers. Dr. Tillich thanked his audience and promptly left the platform.

Have you tasted Jesus? In Psalms 34:8 we read: *"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him."* If you have, rejoice in the hope of the resurrection that your faith in Him brings.

## INTRODUCTION

The key to living a victorious, Spirit-filled Christian life is keeping Jesus Christ as the center and Lord of all that we do. This means to keep Him in our thoughts, actions, words, and our hearts. With Christ in control, our lives are balanced and effective. A wheel can be used to illustrate this principle when we place Christ as the center.

Christ the Center: Galatians 2:20; John 15:5; Colossians 1:27

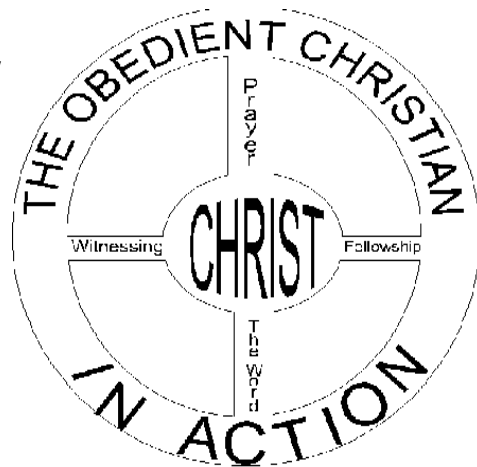
Obedience to Christ: John 14:21; Romans 12:1,2; Luke 6:46

The Word: 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Timothy 3: 16,17; Joshua 1:8

Prayer: Matthew 7:7; Philippians 4:6,7; John 15:7

Fellowship: Matthew 18:20; Hebrews 10:24,25; 1 John 1:3

Witnessing: Matthew 4:19; Romans 1:16; 1 Peter 3:15



In his book, *Follow Me...*, Glen E. Tropp makes a most important statement on an individual's walk with Jesus Christ, "Commitments are extremely important in order to be productive. We need to make a commitment about following Jesus. The purpose for following Jesus is to learn of His ways. One needs to establish the fact that the ways of the world and man will almost always be opposite of the way of the Lord. The world's philosophy is controlled by the god of this world. They are well pleased with themselves and feel they deserve something from God. They constantly deify humanity and seek to humanize God. This self-exaltation and self promotion will culminate in the Anti Christ. Therefore, following Jesus is not going to be POPULAR. In fact, you will encounter PRESSURE and PERSECUTION. But, the spiritual PLEASURE that will fill your soul will be worth the commitment." (See Proverbs 14:12, 16:2; Isaiah 55:8; Colossians 2:8)

# Growing In Grace

From *Our Daily Bread*,

Henry G. Bosch

As birth is only the beginning of a life, so salvation is just the start of a whole new life in Christ. The importance of growing in grace cannot be overemphasized. New Christians need to lean on mature believers and to be nurtured along in the faith with plenty of “tender loving care.”

This is especially true because a babe in Christ is very vulnerable to the attacks of Satan. By both open and subtle devices, the devil seeks to disturb his newfound peace. He must be shown how to keep himself in the love of God, how to grow spiritually, and where to find nourishment, instruction, and inner strength.

The Lord wants the young in the faith to mature into fruitful, Spirit-led Christians. From my years of experience in dealing with souls I have developed an outline that I have found most practical in directing the new believer.

I’m passing it along to you with the suggestion that you clip it out and place it in the flyleaf of your Bible for future use.

The new Christian needs:

1. **Daily Food.** The “pure milk of the word” is the proper formula. It must be read, studied, and absorbed by reflection and meditation (2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 2:2.)
2. **Fresh Air.** This is obtained through daily prayer, the “oxygen” of the soul. If you don’t get enough of it you will “faint” (Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17.)
3. **Exercise.** Get busy in Christian service. Tell others what Christ has done for you (Psalm 100:2; Matthew 10:32.)
4. **Rest.** This is found by relying on God at all times in simple faith (Psalm 37:7; Matthew 11:29.)
5. **Clean Surroundings.** Avoid evil companions. Stay away from places that soil the heart (1 Corinthians 15:33; 2 Corinthians 6:17.)
6. **Loving Care.** Find a church home where you will benefit from the fellowship and support of other believers (Hebrews 10:25; 1 John 1:7.)
7. **Periodic Checkups.** Regularly examine your heart and confess all known sin. The Lord’s Supper is an excellent time. In this manner you will “keep yourself in the love of God” (1 Corinthians 11:31; Jude 1:20,21.)

As attention is given to these biblical instructions, the believer will “grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18.)

## WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

### 1. Definition of the Word

The word “bible” simply means “book.” That is when it’s not capitalized. When it is capitalized as “Bible”, then it means a copy or edition of **the** Bible. The Holy Word of God and it is in this meaning that we will be studying for the next 13 lessons. The Bible is the one supreme and incomparable book and surpasses all other books in areas of authority, antiquity, literary style, and even popularity. This study about the origin of the Bible will help us understand why the Bible is so extraordinary. It will also help us see why no human mind has ever fully comprehended the message of the Bible or fully measured its value.

### 2. Introductory Facts about the Bible

#### A. Age of the Bible

The Bible is older than any other book. The earliest portions of Scripture date back more than 3,300 years. However, its message has been fresh and relevant to men of every age and generation. Its pages are still producing new gems of truth, even to those who study them the most.

#### B. The Demand for the Bible

The Bible is by far the most widely circulated book in the world. Since 1804 more than 800 million Bibles and portions of Scripture have been issued. These figures are from the British and Foreign Bible Societies alone. Every year more 22 million copies of the complete Bible and New Testament are circulated around the world.

The Bible has been translated more than any other book. Each year we see an increase in the number of translations. The following figures reflect this steady growth:

In 1500 A.D. it was printed in 14 languages.

In 1600 – about 40 languages.

In 1800 – about 72 languages.

In 1900 – about 567 languages.

In 1937 – about 1,000 languages.

In 1970 – more than 1,500 lingual translations.

In 1987 – 1,708 languages.

Today?

### C. The Uniqueness of the Bible

1. The Bible has set a standard for law and morality. The Ten Commandments continue to be the basis for civil law throughout the world.
2. The Bible has a power that transforms the lives of men.
3. The Bible speaks with authority (“Thus saith the Lord” is repeated over and over.)
4. The Bible remains indestructible and living despite the many violent attacks that have been waged against it.

### 3. The Supernatural Origin of the Scriptures

There are two areas that intertwine to make the Bible such an amazing book. Unless we understand both of these areas, inspiration and revelation, we will never grasp the truth of the origin of the Bible.

#### A. Inspiration

1. Key verse: 2 Timothy 3:16. The word “inspiration” means “God-breathed.” “All Scripture is God-breathed.” The Bible claims that on the original autographs – every sentence, every word, every line – was placed there in complete agreement with the will of God. **The author of the Bible is God.**
2. God used human authors to write down the words He wanted in the Bible. He did not dictate the words; but, watched over them as they wrote, using their own backgrounds, personality, and abilities. He superintended their work so no errors would creep in.

##### a. The Time Period

The Scriptures were written by forty different men during a 1,500 year time period. Yet there is not one contradiction in their writings. Discrepancies, alleged by critics of the Bible, have proven false or to be misinterpretations caused by taking statements out of context.

##### b. The Places/Languages

The books of the Bible were written in many locations; in heathen Babylon; in the seaport of Ephesus; in a Roman prison; in the Holy Land during peaceful starry nights under the open heavens; and upon the wild and jagged mountains of the desert. Due to the varied locations of its writing, three different languages were used: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.



c. The Authors

Second Peter 1: 21 states that “men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” These men who penned the Scriptures were chosen by God from different cultures, classes, ages, and professions. It is interesting to note the various professions of these men. Among them we find prophets, kings, officials, ministers, shepherds, priests, fishermen, theologians, judges, and even a tax collector.

Consider some of the individual men themselves. Notice how well suited their lives and personalities were for their writings.

- (1) David, who wrote most of the Psalms, was a shepherd boy. Perhaps the most beloved psalm he wrote was Psalm 23.
- (2) Moses, who later became the leader of the nation Israel, was a man raised in the courts of Egypt.
- (3) Solomon, who wrote the Book of Wisdom (Proverbs) and Ecclesiastes, was a wise and worldly king of Israel.
- (4) Daniel, who wrote on international history and prophecy, was a prophet prepared in the courts of a heathen king.
- (5) Paul, who wrote most of the books in the New Testament, was a brilliant man trained in the law.

How did these men know what to write? Where did they get the material to write? We will study the answers to these questions by studying the word “revelation.”

B. Revelation

1. Key verse: 2 Peter 1:20. A clearer translation reads “But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation.” God revealed His ideas to each writer.
2. God used various methods and instruments to reveal the Scriptures to His chosen authors.
  - a. Direct voice. God spoke in an audible voice to some of them, telling them what to write down (Exodus 33:1.)
  - b. Direct writing. God visibly wrote certain of the truths Himself (Exodus 31:18.)
  - c. Dreams. God used the dreams of men as a channel through which He revealed prophetic truths (Daniel 2: 1 –49.)
  - d. Men. The personal experiences and spiritual lives of individuals were used by God (Psalm 51.)
  - e. Natural world. The universe which God created declares Him (Psalm 19:6; Romans 1: 19-23.)
  - f. Historic events. God used the events of men to reveal His will (Genesis through Esther.

- g. Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God guided men as they penned His words (2 Peter 1:21.)

C. Summary of terms

- 1. Revelation is God's activity in communicating His message to man.
- 2. Inspiration is God's activity in communicating His method to man.

4. Proof of Divine Revelation and Inspiration

Only God could perfectly know and foretell the future. In the Bible we have innumerable instances of God's predicting the future precisely.

A. Fulfilled prophecy

- 1. Isaiah prophesied concerning the virgin birth of the Messiah (Isaiah 7: 14.) This prophecy was fulfilled 700 years later when Christ was born (Matthew 1: 23.)
- 2. Micah predicted the exact birthplace of the Messiah in Micah 5:2. This prophecy was fulfilled 500 years later (Luke 2: 4, 6-7.)
- 3. David predicted Christ's crucifixion in detail hundreds of years before this method of death was ever used (Psalm 22.)
- 4. Isaiah foretold Christ's suffering and atonement 700 years before Christ's death (Isaiah 53: 4-6.)

B. The testimony of Christ concerning the Scripture.

This is the crowning proof of the inspiration of the Bible. Christ said, "For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness unto the truth" (John 18: 37.)

- 1. He believed the Law and the prophets (Matthew 5: 17-18.)
- 2. He believed in Solomon (Matthew 6: 29.)
- 3. He believed in Moses (Matthew 8: 4.)
- 4. He believed in Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Matthew 8: 11.)
- 5. He believed the story of Sodom and Gomorrah (Matthew 10: 15.)
- 6. He believed in David (Matthew 12: 3-8.)
- 7. He believed in Jonah (Matthew 12: 40-41.)
- 8. He believed in Isaiah and in Isaiah's prophecies (Matthew 13: 14-15; 15: 7-9.)
- 9. He believed Moses wrote the first books of the Bible (Matthew 19: 3-9.)
- 10. He quoted Old Testament Scriptures (Matthew 21: 13, 16, 42; 22: 28-33.)
- 11. He quoted Daniel (Matthew 24:15.)

## *Lesson One*

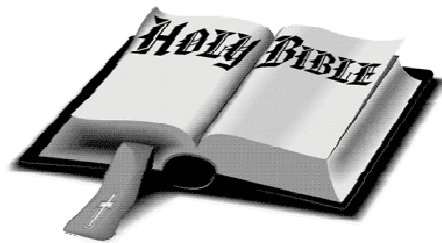
### *What IS the Bible?*

## Lesson 1

### WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

The Bible is the most remarkable *book* ever written. In his book, *The Golden Key*, Ben M. Bogard says, “The Bible is not a book. It is a divine library of SIXTY-SIX books.” And it is true. Within the Bible are individual books written by about forty men of several countries and many occupations. They wrote over a period of approximately 1,500 years and in three languages – Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Yet the Bible is a well-organized unity with one great theme and central figure – Jesus Christ. All of this would be impossible unless the Bible had one supreme Author, and it did, the Holy Spirit of God.



### ***SURVEY OF THE BIBLE***

In Luke 24:44 Jesus says, “These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the Law of Moses, and in the Prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning me.” Jesus divided the Old Testament into three divisions: the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms. I do not wish to confuse anyone in the following division illustrations, because that is all they are intended to do—illustrate that there are divisions within the Bible. And hopefully, in so doing, help the student come to a better understanding of the Bible. It is a book that will open it’s self to the student who opens it and his heart to it’s teachings.

1. The Old Testament

A. The first five books of the Old Testament were written about 1440 B.C. by Moses. These are called the “Five Books of Moses,” or the “Pentateuch” (five writings.) List them below in the order you find them in your Bible.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The book of beginnings (creation, man, sin, redemption, God’s nation.)
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ God delivers His people from Egypt.
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Priestly laws on holiness and worship through sacrifice and purification.
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ God’s people continually disobey and wander in the wilderness for forty years.
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Moses’ great discourse to prepare the people to enter the Promised Land.

B. The next twelve books in the Old Testament are historical. They were written about 1100 – 600 B.C. and describe God’s dealing with His chosen people, Israel, the Hebrew nation. List these books in order.

- |          |          |           |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ | 12. _____ |

C. The following five books are poetical, describing in poetry and song God's greatness and His dealings with men. List these in order.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The suffering and loyal trust of a man who loved God.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Songs of praise and instruction.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ God's practical wisdom for successful living.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The emptiness of earthly life without God.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ A portrait of God's love for His people.

D. The next five books are called the "Major Prophets". A prophet is one who is commissioned by God to deliver His message to men. These books are called "Major Prophets" because they are generally longer than the writings of the next twelve prophets. These five books were written from about 750 – 550 BC List them below:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

E. The last twelve books of the Old Testament are called “Minor Prophets.” These books were written from about 800 – 400 B.C. They are called “Minor Prophets” because of the length of the books and has nothing to do with the importance of their message or the writers standing or position in the kingdom of God. List these books in order.

- |          |          |           |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ | 12. _____ |

Notice that there are thirty-nine books in the Old Testament. These, along with the twenty-seven books in the New Testament make a total of sixty-six books of our Bible. You will find it of great value to memorize these books in order. Begin now, one section at a time, as they are listed in this lesson.

## 2. The New Testament

The New Testament, or New Covenant (God’s present agreement with man) reveals Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of man. In it we find the life of Christ, the beginning of Christianity, the way of salvation, instruction for Christian living, and God’s plan for the future.

A. The first five books of the New Testament are historical. As you list them in order study their descriptions on the right.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The life of Christ written especially for the Jews, revealing Jesus Christ as their long-awaited Savior-King.
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The life of Christ revealing Jesus as the obedient Servant of God.
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The life of Christ revealing Jesus as the perfect Man, emphasizing His humanity.
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The life of Christ revealing Jesus as the Son of God, stressing His deity.
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The beginning of the early work of the church. The church did not start during this time because it started with Jesus when He called His disciples to Him and began to teach them.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are referred to as “The Four Gospels.” Gospel is the “Good News” of Jesus Christ.

What two reasons are given for the writing of John’s Gospel (John 20:31)?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_



B. The next twenty-one books are letters (or epistles) and also listed as Doctrine. They are written to individuals, to churches, or to believers in general. These letters deal with every aspect of Christian faith and responsibilities. List them in the order you find them in your Bible.

1. Paul's Letters

- |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | f. _____ | k. _____ |
| b. _____ | g. _____ | l. _____ |
| c. _____ | h. _____ | m. _____ |
| d. _____ | i. _____ |          |
| e. _____ | j. _____ |          |

2. General Letters

- |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | d. _____ | g. _____ |
| b. _____ | e. _____ | h. _____ |
| c. _____ | f. _____ |          |

C. The last book of the New Testament is a book of prophecy. It tells of future events, including the return, reign, and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ and the future state of believers and unbelievers. It is called \_\_\_\_\_.

*“If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering... but if we in our prosperity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity.”*  
Daniel Webster, about 1850.)

3. Divisions of the Bible summarized.

History	17 books	Rise and fall of the Hebrew Nation
Poetry	5 books	The Nation’s literature in poetry and song
Prophecy	17 books	God’s warnings and promise to the Nation
History	5 books	The Man whom the Nation produced, the beginning of the church and reign among all nations
Doctrine	21 books	His teachings and principles
Prophecy	1 book	His glory, universal judgment, and control promised

Who is the central figure of all the Scriptures (Luke 24: 25-27; John 5: 39)? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Whose Word Is It? \_\_\_\_\_

What does 2 Timothy 3:16 say about the Bible (Scripture)? Underline the correct answer.

- A. Some of the Bible is inspired by God.
- B. There are a few parts that are not inspired.
- C. All of it is inspired by God.
- D. Only the parts that speak to me in a personal way are inspired by God.

Test 1  
WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

In the right hand margin write “T” for true and “F” for false after each of the following statements.

1. The Bible is a collection of edited writings, collected and put together at one point in history.
2. Part of the Bible is wise from men and another part is from God.
3. The entire Bible is inspired.
4. We find the writings of John in the Old Testament.
5. The four Gospels are Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah, and Daniel.
6. The book of Acts gives the history of the early church.
7. Jesus Christ is the central figure of the Scriptures.
8. The New Testament has no relation to the Old Testament.
9. Many of the books in the New Testament were letters to different churches and groups.
10. God’s record of the creation of the world is found in the book of Genesis.

If you would like to discuss any of the questions from this lesson, we’ll go over them at the beginning of the next class.

