

Relating to the Bible

2019-09-22 by Ben Deaver at Tallgrass Church on 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Don't forget:

- Smile more! 😊
- Develop a burden
- Affection for these people! Gratitude—Paul's heart for people!

Mingle Question: What's your favorite Bible verse (if any)? Why?

My favorite verse—Philippians 1:6

Relating to the Bible

- Everyone needs a hard copy of the Bible in their hand!
- Gut check time.

Diagnostic Questions:

- Where are you at in your relationship to the Bible?
- How's your quiet time? Are you chewing up the Word of God?
- Do you relate to the Scriptures like King David did?
- Read Psalm 19:7-11
- Does the Word of God revive your soul?
- Do the truths in Scripture rejoice your heart?
- Does what God says make your eyes light up?
- Do you desire what you hold in your hand more than gold?
- Do you find the taste of Scripture to be sweeter than honey?
- If not, what are you going to do about it?

Enthusiasm for the Bible

- I want you to watch how these people relate to the Bible.
- **First Bibles in Kimyal:** From GLS talk. A reporter arrived with her film crew as the MAF plane landed carrying their Bibles, to the Kimyal community in West Papua. They'd waited 47 years to have the New Testament translated into their heart language. And what a scene as the community came out to welcome the plane and receive their very first Bibles in Kimyal!

Have David Renberg quote 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

- **Proverbs 27:2** Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Pray!

Questions:

1. What is the Bible?
2. What does the Bible do? How is Scripture profitable?
3. How will *WE/YOU* relate to Bible?

First, what is the Bible? What's meant by *all Scripture*?

- The Bible is an ancient text that's a collection of 66 different books—divided into 2 main sections, the Old and New Testaments; 39 OT books, 27 NT books
- Written by more than 40 authors from all walks of life—Politicians, kings, poets, generals, shepherds, philosophers, fishermen, rabbis, tax collectors
- Written over 1500 year span, from ~1400 BC – 100 AD
- Over 3 continents—Africa, Asia, Europe
- 3 languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek
- Varied literary styles, or genres—Poetry, narrative, song, romance, satire, biography, autobiography, law, prophecy, parable, allegory, etc.
- Wide variety of topics and controversial subjects, yet all with an amazing degree of harmony
- ONE SINGLE UNFOLDING STORY—About the one loving Creator God and His great and sacrificial work to win back his children through the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God incarnate, and the hope of eternal resurrected life. It's about God doing for us what we could never do for ourselves, and at incredible cost to himself. And it claims to be true. And it is really, actually true.

How did we get the Bible? How do we know it's *breathed out by God*?

- Canonization and confirmation
- What does it mean Scripture is God-breathed?
 - Inspired isn't profound enough. Scripture is breathed out by God. But it's not the authors mindlessly writing down what's been dictated to them (as some world religious texts view their writings). The authors of Scripture weren't mechanically writing down words and syllables they heard from on high. Their individual styles, feelings, and insights are in the text. Nevertheless, this is God-breathed.
 - **2 Peter 1:19-21** ¹⁹And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
 - OT confirmed by the Jewish community
 - OT confirmed by Jesus. **Luke 24:44** Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."
 - NT confirmed by the Apostles. **2 Peter 3:16** ^{16b} There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.
 - The Bible you hold in your hand confirmed by the early church.
 - How did we get THIS set of 66 books that make up the Bible? Good question! Canonization
 - *How We Got the Canon* by Dennis McCallum— <https://www.xenos.org/essays/how-we-got-canon-scripture>
 - The formation of the New Testament canon began in the early part of the second century A.D. The earliest list was drawn up in Rome, in A.D. 140, by the heretic Marcion. Although his list was not authoritative, it did demonstrate that the idea of a New Testament canon was accepted at that time.

- The first ecclesiastical councils to classify the canonical books were both held in North Africa—at Hippo Regius in 393 AD and at Carthage in 397 AD—but what these councils did was not to impose something new upon the Christian communities but to codify what was already the general practice of these communities (F. F. Bruce, *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?*, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1960, p. 27).

Can we trust the Bible?

- But can the Bible be trusted? Great question! Yes. Moving on... Jk. Quick thoughts!
- *Why Believe the Bible?* Dave Geldart's teaching from June 17, 2018—
<https://tallgrass.church/teachings/2018/06/17/why-believe-the-bible>
- Archaeology
- The person of Jesus
- It works
- Fulfilled prophecy—Trustworthiness—We CAN know if this one is right!
 - Bible stands alone in world literature – even among those holy books that claim divine inspiration)
 - None of them contain predictive prophesy
 - LOTS of SPECIFIC predictive prophesy. Many with names, dates, independently verifiable!
 - God Himself says this is how he'll self-authenticate his Word
 - **Deuteronomy 18:20-22** ²⁰ But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.' ²¹ And if you say in your heart, 'How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?'— ²² when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.
 - Hundreds of predictions have been literary fulfilled, many hundreds of years prior!
- The Chopping Block #10: The Daniel 9 Prophecy— <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyEmY-GQlx8>

Why are there all these different translations?

- Translation Scale—"What's up, dawg?" What would happen if I translated that literally? How do I translate it? Literally? Or translate the meaning?
- These translations can be trusted! There's always need for new translations because language is always changing.

Second, what does the Bible do? How is Scripture profitable?

- Initiate faith—Romans 10:17
- Give new spiritual life—1 Peter 1:23; James 1:18
- 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
- Help us grow—1 Peter 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Acts 20:32
- Sanctify—John 17:17; Ephesians 5:26
- Search and convict—Hebrews 4:12
- Liberate—John 8:31-32
- Offensive weapon in spiritual warfare—Ephesians 6:17
 - **Illus:** Whoever has the knife has the upper hand.
- Refresh and renew (and all sorts of other things)—Psalm 19:7-11; all of Psalm 119
- Connect us to Jesus—John 5:39

Third, how will *WE/YOU* relate to the Bible?

Application:

- What's the next right step for you?
- Do you have hunger and thirst for the Word of God? If not, would you risk asking God to give you this hunger and thirst?
- Perhaps there is a keystone habit for you today?
- What's your modification?
- "Take up and read..." from *Confessions* by St. Augustine.
- Return to an earlier conviction of engagement in the Scriptures or develop a new conviction.

The Word Hand

- Judson Baptist Family Camp—An elderly woman shared with me the Hand Illustration and it's stuck ever since. She probably had no idea the impact of that brief interaction with me when I was probably 6 or 7. I probably had no idea the impact of that little interaction until reflecting on it this week. BTW, if you remember scenes from your childhood, they are probably significant and worth exploring. There's a little soul care tidbit for y'all!

Hear

- Listen to audio Bible.
- Listen to Podcasts.
- Listen to sermons.
- Hear preaching like this.

Read

Pre-Bible Reading Prayers:

- Lord, lead me. Amen.
- Lord, have mercy. Amen.
- Father, as I read your Word, would you please make yourself known to me. Amen.
- Father, as I read your Word, please "open my eyes, that I may see wonderful things out of your law." (Ps. 119:18)
- God, my heart is not inclined to your Word this morning. Oh, God please "incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain." (Ps. 119:36)
- God, "please show me now your ways, that I may know you." (Ex. 33:13)
- "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me, and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!" (Ps. 139:23-24)
- Oh Father, would you out of the riches of your glory strengthen me with power by your Spirit in my inner man so that, as I read your Word, Christ might dwell in my heart by faith and I might be rooted and grounded in his love, and, in fact, know His love for me today. (cf. Eph. 3:16-19)
- Oh God, "satisfy me again this morning with your steadfast love, that I may rejoice and be glad all day long." (Ps. 90:14)

Daily time in the Scriptures

- Time and place
- Plan—Who wants to join me for a reading plan in October?
 - YouVersion Bible app—Join me and others!
- A method
 - Read and then write
 - Handwrite the passage double-spaced

Best practices

- Set the stage for success
- Accountability
- Help along the way
- Consistent Coaching, Compelling Community, Common Cause

Weekly tawG—Jump in with Dave Geldart, David Renberg, Dilan Oglesby, and me on Slack. Women are welcome to be a part of our tawG Slack channel too.

Study

- The Bible Project—Don't even get Paxton started on this stuff.
- *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*—Maybe there's a better resource out there. If you know of one please let me know.

Memorize—Scripture Memory

- We need a renewed interest in Scripture Memory!
 - Memorized everything I could at L-Bar-C summer camp one year.
 - Romans 12:2—Be transformed by the renewing of the mind.
 - One of my greatest fears in life is to lose my mind when I get older. This is a new reason for me to reengage with Scripture Memory.
- Verse Card Maker—mccscott.org
- Topical Memory System—Talk to David Renberg.
- Romans 8 Challenge—Talk to Maris Deaver.
- Memorized Scripture while walking to class. Loved it! But eventually I realized I need to apply it!

Meditate

Apply

- James 1:22 over Christmas break of my junior year.
- **James 1:22** Don't just listen to the Word of God, do what it says! But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
- Learning without application will result in deception.

Firm grasp on the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God!

- **Hebrews 4:12** For 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.
- **Ephesians 6:17**

The Joyful Jesus-Centered Nature of the Bible

- Relating to the Scriptures should quickly move to a joyful experience!
 - **Psalm 30:5** For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
 - **Nehemiah 8** story
- Jesus is the interpretive key!
 - **Luke 24:27, 44**
 - **John 5:39**

Q&R&Testimonies

Pray!

Give us a heart for your Word like the Kimyal community that were so excited the first time they received the Bible.

The Chopping Block:

Ideas:

- When you read about what the elders of the church are to do a lot of it has to do with protecting the doctrinal integrity of the church...rooted in the Scriptures.
- Mike Bullmore talks from XSI 2010
 - *Against the Flow; Nurturing the Inner Life in a Fast Paced World*—
<https://www.xenos.org/teachings/?teaching=1773>
 - *Feeding on God; Cultivating a Fruitful Life in the Word*—
<https://www.xenos.org/teachings/?teaching=1772>

Deuterocanonical books

- Deuterocanonical books means "second canon" in Greek. It usually means the parts of the Bible that are only used by some Christian churches (mostly Roman Catholic and Orthodox). The books have originally been written in Greek language and they date to era of some 250-150 years before Christ.
 - The books are not part of the Jewish Tanakh (also called the Hebrew Bible) since their original language is Greek and not Hebrew. Some books considered deuterocanonical by Catholics are:
 - The Book of Tobit
 - The Book of Judith
 - The First Book of Maccabees, also called 1 Maccabees
 - The Second Book of Maccabees, also called 2 Maccabees
 - The Wisdom of Solomon, also called The Book of Wisdom
 - The Book of Sirach, also called Ecclesiasticus
 - The Book of Baruch, with the Letter of Jeremiah as its last chapter
 - The Book of Daniel and the Book of Esther are longer in Catholic Bibles than in Protestant Bibles because they have more stories.
- Most Protestant Christian churches do not think that the deuterocanonical books were inspired by God. They call these books Apocrypha. Martin Luther considered these book very good and useful reading; John Calvin considered them as work of Satan.

Passages:

- **2 Timothy 3:14-16** ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
- **2 Timothy 2:14-19** ¹⁴ Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. ¹⁶ But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, ¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. ¹⁹ But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."
- **2 Timothy 4:1-5** I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³ For the time is coming when

people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.⁵ As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

- **2 Peter 1:16-18** ¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.
- **2 Peter 3:15-18** ¹⁵And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. ¹⁷You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ¹⁸But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.
- Three main purposes of Scripture—wise for salvation, correct error, and prepare for good works
- Good works
 - 1 Timothy 2:10; 5:10, 25; 6:18; 2 Timothy 2:21; Titus 2:7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14
 - Not saved by good works—2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9
 - Two specific ministries called a “good work”—overseers (1 Tim. 3:1) and evangelist (2 Tim. 4:5)
- Ephesians 2:8-10—*Salvation* by grace through faith for *good works*
- **Nehemiah 8:1-8** And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. ²So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. ³And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. ⁴And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiyah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. ⁶And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁷Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. ⁸They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.
- **Nehemiah 8:9-18** ⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” ¹¹So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.” ¹²And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them. ¹³On the second day the heads of fathers' houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came together to Ezra the scribe in order to study the words of the Law. ¹⁴And they found it written in the Law that the LORD had commanded by Moses that the people of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month, ¹⁵and that they should proclaim it and publish it in all their towns and in Jerusalem, “Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written.” ¹⁶So the people went out and brought them and made booths for themselves, each on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim. ¹⁷And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths

and lived in the booths, for from the days of Jeshua the son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing. ¹⁸ And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. They kept the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the rule.

Confessions by St. Augustine

Book XII

But when a deep consideration had from the secret bottom of my soul drawn together and heaped up all my misery in the sight of my heart; there arose a mighty storm, bringing a mighty shower of tears. Which that I might pour forth wholly, in its natural expressions, I rose from Alypius: solitude was suggested to me as fitter for the business of weeping; so I retired so far that even his presence could not be a burden to me. Thus was it then with me, and he perceived something of it; for something I suppose I had spoken, wherein the tones of my voice appeared choked with weeping, and so had risen up. He then remained where we were sitting, most extremely astonished. I cast myself down I know not how, under a certain fig-tree, giving full vent to my tears; and the floods of mine eyes gushed out an acceptable sacrifice to Thee. And, not indeed in these words, yet to this purpose, spake I much unto Thee: and Thou, O Lord, how long? how long, Lord, wilt Thou be angry for ever? Remember not our former iniquities, for I felt that I was held by them. I sent up these sorrowful words: How long, how long, “tomorrow, and tomorrow?” Why not now? why not is there this hour an end to my uncleanness?

So was I speaking and weeping in the most bitter contrition of my heart, when, lo! I heard from a neighbouring house a voice, as of boy or girl, I know not, chanting, and oft repeating, “Take up and read; Take up and read.” Instantly, my countenance altered, I began to think most intently whether children were wont in any kind of play to sing such words: nor could I remember ever to have heard the like. So checking the torrent of my tears, I arose; interpreting it to be no other than a command from God to open the book, and read the first chapter I should find. For I had heard of Antony, that coming in during the reading of the Gospel, he received the admonition, as if what was being read was spoken to him: Go, sell all that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven, and come and follow me: and by such oracle he was forthwith converted unto Thee. Eagerly then I returned to the place where Alypius was sitting; for there had I laid the volume of the Apostle when I arose thence. I seized, opened, and in silence read that section on which my eyes first fell: Not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying; but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, in concupiscence. No further would I read; nor needed I: for instantly at the end of this sentence, by a light as it were of serenity infused into my heart, all the darkness of doubt vanished away.

Then putting my finger between, or some other mark, I shut the volume, and with a calmed countenance made it known to Alypius. And what was wrought in him, which I knew not, he thus showed me. He asked to see what I had read: I showed him; and he looked even further than I had read, and I knew not what followed. This followed, him that is weak in the faith, receive; which he applied to himself, and disclosed to me. And by this admonition was he strengthened; and by a good resolution and purpose, and most corresponding to his character, wherein he did always very far differ from me, for the better, without any turbulent delay he joined me. Thence we go in to my mother; we tell her; she rejoiceth: we relate in order how it took place; she leaps for joy, and triumpheth, and blesseth Thee, Who are able to do above that which we ask or think; for she perceived that Thou hadst given her more for me, than she was wont to beg by her pitiful and most sorrowful groanings. For thou convertedst me unto Thyself, so that I sought neither wife, nor any hope of this world, standing in that rule of faith, where Thou hadst showed me unto her in a vision, so many years before. And Thou didst convert her mourning into joy, much more plentiful than she had desired, and in a much more precious and purer way than she erst required, by having grandchildren of my body.

Topical Memory System (TMS)

The Topical Memory System (TMS) and Topical Memory System: Life Issues were developed by The Navigators as a simple, easy-to-use system to help believers memorize key verses that point to basic truths and important instruction. If you want to memorize Scripture but aren't sure what to memorize or how, this system is the perfect launching point to begin hiding God's Word in your heart. Below is a list of the 5 pivotal topics addressed in the original Topical Memory System.

Living The New Life

Christ the Center	2 Corinthians 5:17	Galatians 2:20
Obedience to Christ	Romans 12:1	John 14:21
The Word	2 Timothy 3:16	Joshua 1:8
Prayer	John 15:7	Philippians 4:6,7
Fellowship	Matthew 18:20	Hebrews 10:24,25
Witnessing	Matthew 4:19	Romans 1:16

Proclaiming Christ

All Have Sinned	Romans 3:23	Isaiah 53:6
Sin's Penalty	Romans 6:23	Hebrews 9:27
Christ Paid the Penalty	Romans 5:8	1 Peter 3:18
Salvation is not by Works	Ephesians 2:8,9	Titus 3:5
Must Receive Christ	John 1:12	Revelation 3:20
Assurance of Salvation	1 John 5:13	John 5:24

Reliance On God's Resources

His Spirit	1 Corinthians 3:16	1 Corinthians 2:12
His Strength	Isaiah 41:10	Philippians 4:13
His Faithfulness	Lamentations 3:22,23	Numbers 23:19
His Peace	Isaiah 26:3	1 Peter 5:7
His Provision	Romans 8:32	Philippians 4:19
His Help in Temptation	Hebrews 2:18	Psalms 119:9,11

Being Christ's Disciple

Put Christ First	Matthew 6:33	Luke 9:23
Separate From the World	1 John 2:15,16	Romans 12:2
Be Steadfast	1 Corinthians 15:58	Hebrews 12:3
Serve Others	Mark 10:45	2 Corinthians 4:5
Give Generously	Proverbs 3:9,10	2 Corinthians 9:6,7
Develop World Vision	Acts 1:8	Matthew 28:19,20

Growth In Christlikeness

Love	John 13:34,35	1 John 3:18
Humility	Philippians 2:3,4	1 Peter 5:5,6
Purity	Ephesians 5:3	1 Peter 2:11
Honesty	Leviticus 19:11	Acts 24:16
Faith	Hebrews 11:6	Romans 4:20,21
Good Works	Galatians 6:9,10	Matthew 5:16