

God is for us and not against us, and He loves us enough to give us a Blueprint for Life within His Word. This blueprint includes ‘Ten Great Bible Doctrines’ that will help us understand God’s will and purpose for our existence here on this earth. These doctrines act as blueprints to build our lives on and to live in such a way that brings pleasure and Glory to God.

The Blueprint for Life - The Great Bible Doctrines: 1) The Doctrine of The Bible. 2) The Doctrine of God. 3) The Doctrine of Christ. 4) The Doctrine of The Holy Spirit. 5) The Doctrine of Man. 6) The Doctrine of Sin. 7) The Doctrine of Salvation. 8) The Doctrine of Angels. 9) The Doctrine of the Church, and 10) The Doctrine of Future Things. In this series we will also see how each doctrine has personal applications for our lives. So, let’s get started today with “The Doctrine of The Bible.”

For familiarity and consistency’s sake each doctrine will be presented in a format used in Max Anders’ book. “30 Days to Understand the Bible.”ⁱ This is the book we use in our Life Group bearing the same name. Max lays out Four Major Subdivisions of each Doctrine and we will do the same.

The Four Major Subdivisions of the Doctrine of The Bible Are:

Revelation: The Bible was revealed to man by God.

Inspiration: God saw to it that when men wrote down His revelation, they do so without error.

Illumination: The Holy Spirit must enable people to understand and embrace the truth of scripture.

Interpretation: We must be diligent students of Scriptures to understand its deeper teachings.

Revelation

The Bible was revealed to man by God.

God Reveals Himself to Us in His Words.

- The bible is a collection of 66 books: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.
 - The Bible reveals how God feels about and relates to humanity, includes the history of God’s people, the plan of salvation, and prophecies about future events.
 - The Bible was written by 40 different authors, all inspired by God, some educated, some simple men: doctors, farmers, tax collectors, fishermen, and kings. Even with the diversity, the scriptures flow in unity, with perfect detail. In truth the bible only has one author (God) who used 40 different men to reveal himself to us.
- **God’s Spoken Word:** In Genesis chapter one “God said” appears 9 times. “The Lord spoke” appears 560 times in the first 5 books and at least 3800 times in the whole Old Testament. Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament uses. “Thus says the Lord” 23 times.
- **God’s Revealed Word Feeds Us Spiritually.** **Matthew 4:4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone (physical bread), but on every word that comes from the mouth of God (spiritual bread).’”**

Inspiration

God saw to it that when men wrote down His revelation, they do so without error.

I believe that God has preserved His Word for us for almost 2000 years, so that the book we now have includes everything that we need to live a Godly life. And yes, without error.

2 Timothy 3:16 NKJ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

What is the source and origin of the Bible? ALL Scripture is given by the inspiration of God. The expression ‘given by inspiration of God’ is translated from the Greek word *theopneustos*, which means ‘**God Breathed.**’

God-breathed Scripture is Profitable for Several Things:

- **Doctrine** - The principles of our religious beliefs that we will embrace and teach others. The Word of God is the standard for all our beliefs and teachings. The Bible will be the bases for all Ten of the Great Bible Doctrines we will study this summer. These doctrines form our 'Blueprints for Life!'
- **Reproof** - Being told that you are doing something wrong. There is a sense of security in knowing that God, through His Word, will tell you when you are doing something wrong.
- **Correction** – Corrects the wrong and points us in the right direction. Life would be hard and almost unbearable if we were always told that our actions were wrong, but never told how to correct our actions.
- **Instructions** in righteousness. Now that we are declared righteous in Christ Jesus, the bible instructs us on how to live right in the sight of God - In right standing with a Holy God.

Why did God ensure that we would have this book we call the Bible?

2 Timothy 3:17 NKJ ...that the man of God (*people of God*) may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

God desires that we be complete and thoroughly equipped. God desires that we be people who are whole, people who are prepared, and people who are thoroughly equipped for every good work.

ILL: Unequipped for every good work would be like a football player with no equipment. A builder with no tools. An artist with no brush. The best chef with no pots, pans, or oven.

Some people may argue about the accuracy of the Bible, but I trust God the He has provided us with everything we need and without errors. Since we all are His workmanship, created for good works, and God wants us to walk in those good works, it makes sense that he provides us with the perfect instruction book. A book that gives us life! God has preserved His Word for us for so that we can be fully furnished for every good work.

The greatest proof of the Bible being the divine Word of God is the difference its message makes in your life!

Illumination

The Holy Spirit must enable people to understand and embrace the truth of scripture.

Not only do we have the word of truth but, God has given us the Holy Spirit to teach us and bring the scripture to life.

John 16:12-14 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.

13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

Illumination and Understanding Comes When We Receive The Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:12-14 What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.

14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

Interpretation

We must be diligent students of Scriptures to understand its deeper teachings.

We all are His workmanship, created for good works, and God wants us to walk in those good works. God's preserved Word, when applied, allows us to be fully furnished for every good work! (2 Timothy 3:17) As a student of the Bible, as we are trained in works of ministry, we need to be diligent to allow the Holy Spirit to help us interpret the Word of God correctly.

- You and I Have a Responsibility. **2 Timothy 2:15 “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.**
The King James Version says to “*Be Diligent to present yourself approved to God.*” In other words, it may take some effort on your part. You must apply yourself so that the Holy Spirit can teach you. Study the Word of God so that you can be the very best for the Lord that you can possibly be.
- Be Like The Bereans. **Acts 17:11-12 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. 12 As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.**
 - Every day, with great eagerness, search the scriptures for God's truths revealed to you.
 - Every day use the inspired God breathed Word for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instructions in righteousness.
 - Pray that the Holy Spirit will illuminate the Word of God to you. If you don't understand a passage ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand.
 - Pray that you and I will always interpret the Word of God correctly, to avoid errors and false doctrines. Believe that the Holy Spirit will help you with this as you read.

Next Step: Today I commit myself to diligent Bible Study.

Growing in the Word

Some of you might be thinking, “*This is all a bit overwhelming. I'm new at all of this and I really don't understand all the ins and outs of the Bible.*” Let me say to you, “*Its ok.*”

This is a learning process, and you will grow in your knowledge and understanding as you read.

Like a Baby, Begin to Grow - 1 Peter 2:2-3 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

From Milk to Meat - Hebrew 5:12-14 You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. 13 For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. 14 Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

Next Step: I will prayerfully assess my life to see if as a result of my Bible study, I am growing in the Lord, from milk to meat.

The Word of God Leads to Salvation and Eternal Life

James 1:21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

John 5:24 “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

ⁱ Max Anders. “30 Days To Understanding The Bible” (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2011), p.192-197.