

The Bible

Gospel Foundation Of Faith: Shelf 1 — Volume 1

Opportunity For A Personal Mission

Welcome to the **International Bible Institute Curriculum** of Bible courses. This curriculum of courses was written over a period of 50 years by Dr. Roger E. Dickson. The courses are formatted for smartphones in order to be communicated to Bible students worldwide. The courses are communicated to Bible lovers through the medium of email and WhatsApp. All the courses have been formatted for smartphone reading in the landscape position. If printed out for classroom distribution, printing should be on A4 paper at 125%. All courses are open source in copyright and can be freely distributed.

The recipients to whom the courses are offered are the following: (1) Individuals who seek advanced Bible-based reading for personal exhortation. (2) Preachers and Bible teachers who are seeking lesson material for their study groups. (3) Established Bible schools who are seeking added courses for their existing curriculum of study. (4) Partners who will join with us to share these courses to those around the world who seek Bible-based study material. (5) Those who seek to establish their own WhatsApp Bible school directly from their city. Please select any course from the website that is noted at the end of this course and share with all your friends.

THE BIBLE

LEARNING AND REMEMBERING

So let's get started on this life-changing experience. No matter how advanced one might be in his or her knowledge of the Bible, we must always return to the fundamental principles of the Bible that have touched, not only our own lives, but the lives of millions of people around the world for centuries. However, though millions of people have been influenced in the past by the Bible, there is a tremendous opportunity today for encouraging more Bible study and teaching throughout the world today. This opportunity especially is especially true among those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, but have a limited knowledge the word of God.



The opportunity is that the religious world in which we live today is fast forgetting a knowledge of the Bible. Even those who name Jesus in their faith are often going the way of the fallen Israelites over 3,000 years ago. Through the prophet Hosea, God, in the following words, judged that generation of His people as He would judge this generation today:

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge [of My word]. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you so that you will be no priest to Me. Seeing you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children (Hs 4:6).

**If We Forget
The Word Of God,
We Will Move
Away From God.**

In reference to our generation today and our children, Jesus prophesied the same judgment in **Matthew 7:21**: ***“Not every one who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.”*** This is a fearfully striking parallel to the judgment of Hosea 4:6 above

where God, centuries before Jesus, judged the nation of Israel because they fell away from the word of God.

In Jesus' statement of judgment in Matthew 7:21, He pronounced that those who have no knowledge of the will of the Father will often reject Him as their Father. It is for this reason that Jesus will eventually reject them.

It Takes More Than A Knowledge Of The Word Of God To Be Saved.

So we read with fear the continued warning of Jesus in the context of His prophesy concerning those who would wilfully forget what their Bibles teach:

Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and performed many wonderful works in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you. Depart from Me you who practice lawlessness" (Mt 7:22,23).

For all of us who live in this present world, these are frightening words. They are such because many people today who profess "Lord, Lord" in their faith have very little knowledge of the Bible. In their ignorance of the word of God, therefore, they "practice lawlessness." Their ignorance of the Bible, according to the preceding statements of God the Father and the Son, will eventually lead to their eternal destruction away from the presence of God (See 2 Th 1:6-9).

Ignorance Of The Bible Always Moves One Away From God.

One can remain religious and do good works, but if his or her works are not directed by a knowledge of God's will in response to the gospel, then he or she is often working in vain.

- 1. T or F:** If we forget the word of God, God will forget us.
- 2. T or F:** One may know the word of God, but if he or she does

not obey what God says, then he or she cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven.

3. **T or F:** One can be save when Jesus comes again, even though he or she has no knowledge of the word of God.

~ Knowing The Bible ~

A person has deprived himself of the best knowledge there is available in the world today if he or she has deprived himself or herself of a knowledge of the Bible. On the foundation of the morals of this book, civilizations have been built and sustained. Only through the medium of the Bible can we understand who God is. If we forget the revelation of God in the Bible, **then we will create a god who conforms to**

Since Jesus Is Our
Only Savior,
Then One Cannot
Be Saved Without
Knowing Jesus
In The Bible.

our own desires. The same is true in reference to Jesus. If we forget the Jesus who is identified and defined in the Bible, then we will create in our minds a “Jesus” who is totally foreign to the dictionaries of **Matthew, Mark,**

Luke and John. For this reason, we must know well the “Dictionary” (the Bible) that defines both God the Father and His Son.

4. **T or F:** If one forgets what the Bible says about the one true and living God, then he or she will create a god in his or her own mind according this world, or one’s own desires.
5. **T or F:** It is impossible to believe in the Jesus of the Bible without any knowledge of the New Testament.

The word “Bible” comes from the Greek word *Biblia* which means “book.” The Bible is a collection of God’s library of instructions and definitions of those things we must know and believe. In other words, the Bible is God’s “dictionary” wherein He explains Himself and the incarnation of His Son into this world for the

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Communicate His
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In The Bible, God
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Dictionaries.

redemption of humanity. Therefore, no other written words of any book in all history have affected so many people for so long. The reason for this is that people know that the Bible is God's road map to truth that was revealed to direct our beliefs and behavior. It reveals that when the Son of God was incarnate into this world, His example of living became the model for millions throughout the world to live as He lived for us (See Ph 2:5-8).

The more we study the eternal sacrifice of the Son of God that is explained in the Bible, then the easier it would be to make our way through the struggles of this life.

- 6. T or F:** It is not possible to understanding Jesus and His ministry to save us without a knowledge of His ministry that is revealed in the Bible.

The Bible is a library of sixty-six Holy Spirit inspired books and letters that are brought together as one volume. Contrary to man-made religions that are usually based on the writings of one religious person, the Bible was written by over forty inspired men over a period of about **1,500 years**. Though written by so many different individuals over a period of many centuries, there are no contradictions in the Bible. This amazing fact simply could not have happened if the Bible were the product of zealous people.

The Bible Was Not Written As One Book, But Is A Compilation Of Books Written Over Several Centuries.

There is one united theme throughout the entire Bible. **This is the eternal salvation of man through the sacrificial offering of Jesus, the incarnate Son of God.** The fact that all the writers of the Bible did not contradict one another throughout the centuries on this theme is evidence that the Bible could never have been the product of human ingenuity.

- 7. T or F:** The fact that the Bible was written over a period of several centuries is one proof that it is the product of God.

Thirty-nine of the Bible books make up what is referred to as the Old Testament. These books, containing the Sinai law, were first written and given to the nation of Israel. The New Testament contains **twenty-seven** books that were written



for Christians. Today, however, Christians receive their instruction for living primarily through the New Testament, though learning and admonition for godly living are also reaped from the Old Testament.

We must keep in mind that the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are recorded histories of the ministry of Jesus. Jesus' ministry took place during the Old Testament period when the Sinai law was still in effect. As a Jew, therefore, Jesus lived under the Sinai law that was given to Israel at Mount Sinai. These books are included as New Testament books, but they record the history and teachings of Jesus as He brought the Jews to the cross, and the establishment of His church of people on the day of Pentecost in A.D. 30.

Though Jesus lived and died while the Sinai law was still in force, His purpose during His ministry was to lead the Jews to the cross, and subsequently accept Him as God's sacrificial offering for the sins of humanity.

- 8. T or F:** The thirty-nine books of the Old Testament, though directed to the nation of Israel in order to lead them to the Messiah, the theme of the Old Testament books was the salvation of all people through the salvational offering on the cross.
- 9. T or F:** The Ten Commandments, as a part of the Old Testament, are directed specifically to Christians.

~ God's Blessing Of The Bible ~

The Bible came to us through years of God's work to inspire about forty chosen men to give instructions on how we can live according to His will. It was the work of the Holy Spirit to inspire writers in order to bring God's word, the Bible, into our hands.

1. The Bible is God speaking through the words of man (Mt 22:43; At 1:16; 2 Tm 3:16).
2. The Bible is God speaking through the Holy Spirit through the words of man (Jn 14:26; 16:13; 1 Co 2:10-13; Hb 3:7; 9:8; 10:15; 2 Pt 1:20,21).
3. The Bible is God speaking through the Holy Spirit through inspired words of truth (Jr 36:4; 1 Co 2:13).
4. The Bible is God speaking through the Holy Spirit, who in turn inspired men to write words of truth for humanity (Ex 24:4; 35:1; 2 Sm 23:2; Is 51:16; Jr 36:4-6; Ez 11:5; 1 Co 14:37).
5. The Bible is God speaking through the Holy Spirit through men to all people throughout the world (Lk 1:70; At 28:25; Rm 1:2; 16:26).
6. The Bible is God speaking through the Holy Spirit through inspired men to all people of all history (Ez 2:7; 3:4,10,11,17; 2 Th 2:14; 2 Tm 3:16,17; Hb 1:1,2).

Since God speaks all truth through the Bible today, then there is no truth revealed by the Holy Spirit today to any one individual outside the words of the Bible.

10. **T or F:** In the work of inspiration, the Holy Spirit chose gifted people who could write well, and then He allowed them the freedom to write their own messages to the people.
11. **T or F:** The Bible is the product of the Holy Spirit guiding men to write the will of God without error or contradiction.

~ Trusting The Bible ~

God gave the Bible to people upon the foundation of miraculous proof. He not only inspired chosen men to preach and write His word, but He also sent confirming miracles to prove that His word was more than

the product of godly men. Once God confirmed His spoken word through miracles, **He no longer needed to confirm His word once it was written.** In this way God expects us to be moved and directed by the written word, not by our own personal emotional adventures that often lead us astray.

Once Miraculously Confirmed, The Bible Never Has To Be Confirmed Again To Be The Word Of God.

1. The Bible was confirmed by miracles. The word of God that was first spoken by the early messengers of God was proven to be from God by the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit (See 1 Kg 18:30-40; Mk 16:20; Jn 20:30,31; At 2:23; 4:29,30; 1 Co 2:1-5; 12:7; Gl 3:5; Hb 2:3,4).
2. The confirmed and spoken word was eventually produced in written form. The inspired writers of the Bible recorded their miraculously proven word for the posterity of humanity until the end of time (Rm 15:4,18,19; 1 Co 2:4; 10:11; 1 Th 1:5).

Since some believe that God must continually throughout history confirm His word with miracles, then there is little hope for those who acquire a Bible, simply read, and then learn what they must do in order to be saved.

12. **T or F:** We can trust the word of God because it was written by godly people, though they were never confirmed miraculously by the work of God in their lives.
13. **T or F:** When the Bible was completed with the writing of the book of Revelation, God never intended that any further inspired books be written and added to the Bible.

~ Bible Challenged Life ~

We must give the Bible a chance in our lives. If we believe the Bible to be the actual Spirit-inspired word of God, then we will treasure its message. Our lives will thus be transformed into lives that are pleasing to God. Because it is not possible for people to determine their own moral standards, everyone is obligated to seek out God's moral standards that are recorded in the Bible (Jr 10:23).

1. The words of the Bible can dwell in our hearts (Cl 3:16; 1 Jn 2:14,24; 3:9; 2 Jn 2).
2. The words of the Bible can be laid up in our hearts so that we not sin against God (Ps 37:31; 119:11).
3. The words of the Bible can be written on our hearts when we honor its principles of truth and morality (Ps 40:8; Jr 31:32,33; 2 Co 3:3; Hb 8:10; 10:16).
4. The words of the Bible change our lives when we sincerely obey the principles of truth and moral values that are recorded in the Bible (Js 1:22-25; 1 Jn 1:6,7; 2 Jn 4; 3 Jn 3,4).

The Holy Spirit changes lives when people read in the Bible the instructions by which God seeks to direct our lives.

14. **T or F:** If one seeks to discover the moral standards of God by which to conduct his or her life, then these standards can be discovered only in the Bible.
15. **T or F:** The word of God can be laid up in our hearts in order that God direct our lives through words of instruction.

~ Sufficiency Of The Bible ~

The Bible is all-sufficient to furnish the Christian with all direction that is necessary to be acceptable to God. The Bible has the power to accomplish the following in our lives when it is revered as the word of God:

1. Power to change lives (1 Th 4:1,2; 1 Pt 2:1,2; 2 Pt 1:3; 3 Jn 3,4).
2. Power to give eternal life (Jn 8:51; see Jn 5:24; 11:26).
3. Power to eternally save (At 11:14; 20:32; Js 1:21).
4. Power to give freedom (Jn 8:32; Js 1:25).
5. Power to minister to others (Ep 4:11-16).
6. Power to teach (Ps 119:103,104; Pv 22:6; Rm 15:4).
7. Power to admonish (1 Co 4:14; 10:11; 2 Tm 4:1,2; Ti 1:9).
8. Power to live a godly life (Cl 1:5-10; 1 Tm 3:14,15; 1 Pt 5:12).
9. Power to reprove, rebuke and correct (2 Tm 3:16; Ti 1:9).

The power of the word of God is revealed in the fact of how people respond to what they read in the Bible, as well as their respect for the Bible as God's book.

- 16. T or F:** When the word of God sets us free, it is setting us free from the misguided teachings of man.
- 17. T or F:** Since God finalized His message to man through the written word of the Bible, then we must assume that the Bible alone is sufficient to lead one into what he or she must do in order to be with God for eternity.

~ God's Final Message ~

The Bible claims to be God's only and final revelation of truth to humanity. With the writing of the document of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, God discontinued all revelation of truth that He desires that any person know in any period of history.

1. God revealed His will to the fathers of extended family groups in Old Testament times before the giving of the Sinai law to Israel on Mount Sinai (Hb 1:1,2).
2. God revealed His will to Israel on Mount Sinai, which revelation of law was eventually written by Moses in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy (Ex 19:4-6; Dt 4:1,13; 5:1-5; Ne 8:1; Rm 3:1,2).
3. God revealed His will through the Old Testament writers who recorded examples from which Christians can learn (Rm 15:4; 1 Co 10:11).
4. God finalized the revelation of all truth through the New Testament writers in the first century (Jn 14:26; 16:13).
5. We have all necessary instruction today in the Bible that was recorded for our teaching and moral behavior (Gl 1:11,12; Ep 3:3-5; 2 Tm 3:16,17; 2 Pt 1:3). Therefore, we must not add to or subtract from the principles and truths of the Bible (Dt. 4:2; Gl 1:6-9; 2 Jn 9-11; Rv 22:18,19).

**We Must Not
Bind On The
Consciences
Of People
Moral Principles
That Only God
Can Bind.**

The fact that God has concluded all His revelation of truth through the Bible to lead us in godly living, assumes that all that one must do in order to live according to the will of God is revealed in the Bible.

- 18. T or F:** After God completed His written instructions for His people in the first century, then He chose the fathers of families to continue His work among His people unto this day.

19. T or F: The Bible contains all necessary information for one to discover the way of God unto eternal life.

~ Medium Of God's Work ~

Since God is our creator, He seeks to direct us to Himself. He intends that His word function in the following ways in the lives of those who seek a relationship with Him, and thus desire to submit to His direction. Through the Bible, God is able to do the following in the life of every individual:

When We Consider
The Bible To Be
The Word Of God,
It Will Change Our
Lives When Read
And Studied.

1. Produce faith in our hearts (Jn 20:30,31; Rm 10:17).
2. Sanctify our souls of sin (Jn 17:17; Ep 5:26).
3. Cleanse our hearts and souls (Jn 15:2,3; Ep 5:26; 1 Pt 1:22).
4. Quicken our souls (Ps 119:50,93; Ep 2:1,5).
5. Enlighten our minds (Ps 19:8).
6. Give us understanding (Ps 119:104,130; Ep 3:4).
7. Lead our lives (Ps 73:24; 119:105).
8. Comfort our hearts (Rm 15:4; 1 Th 3:2; 4:18).
9. Strengthen our hearts (At 20:32; Rm 16:25; 2 Tm 2:1,2).
10. Produce in us spiritual growth (At 20:32; Cl 1:10,11).

If our knowledge of and obedience to the word of God is necessary in order to please God, then we can assume that those who do not know the Bible will not be directly affected by its principles.

20. T or F: Since the Bible is the inspired word of God, then God expects all people of the world to find their way to understand the gospel through the Bible.

21. T or F: The Bible is able to quicken our souls, give us understanding, and produce faith in our hearts.

God revealed His will to us in order that we find our way to Him. Without His revelation to us, we could not know who He is or how to please Him. In other words, without the Bible no one can find their way to the one true and living God.

The Bible reveals that Jesus is the only way to God (Jn 14:6). As the incarnate Son of God who came in the flesh of man, Jesus said, *“If you love Me, keep My commandments”* (Jn 14:15). If anyone wants to find his or her way to God, and how to show one’s love for Jesus, the Son of God, then he or she must follow the commandments of Jesus. The only way to know and follow the commandments of Jesus is by reading the Bible (See Jn 12:48).

The beginning to know Jesus is to do what He stated we must do to join Him on our gospel journey with Him into eternal glory. We thus must keep Jesus’

One Can Know
The Son Of God
Only Through
A Study Of
The Bible.

commandments by first obeying the gospel (See Jn 6:45; Mk 16:16; At 2:38; 22:16; Rm 6:3-6; 1 Pt 3:21). Through faith and obedience of the gospel, one becomes a member of Jesus’ body, the church (1 Co 12:13; Cl 1:18). This church of gospel-obedient people are on their way to eternal glory in the arms of God.

22. T or F: It is possible to find other ways to know God, including the godly living of those who do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

23. T or F: One truly does not love God if he or she finds a copy of the Bible, and then refuses to read, study and obey its message.

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

1. How can the people of God be destroyed because of their lack of knowledge of the word of God?
2. Can a person be of God if he or she has no knowledge of the Son of God?
3. Why is it not possible for one to be received by Jesus when He comes again if he or she does not know God?
4. Why do we create a concept of Jesus after our own imagination when we have no knowledge of Jesus as He is explained in the Bible?
5. Why is the revelation of those things that came from God limited because of the use of our dictionary defined words?

6. What is the theme that runs throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation?
7. Why does the fact that all the Bible books were written over a period of several centuries with any contradictions prove that the Bible cannot be the product of man alone?
8. Once confirmed as the word of God, why does the Bible not have to be confirmed miraculously through the centuries, even to this day?
9. In what ways does God expect His written word to change our lives?
10. What truth is proved because the Bible is sufficient for all the spiritual needs of the people of God?
11. In what ways does the word of God affect our lives?



ABREVIATIONS

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis - **Gn**, Exodus - **Ex**, Leviticus - **Lv**, Numbers - **Nm**, Deuteronomy - **Dt**, Joshua - **Ja**, Judges - **Jg**, Ruth - **Rt**, 1 Samuel - **1 Sm**, 2 Samuel - **2 Sm**, 1 Kings - **1 Kg**, 2 Kings - **2 Kg**, 1 Chronicles - **1 Ch**, 2 Chronicles - **2 Ch**, Ezra - **Er**, Nehemiah - **Ne**, Esther - **Et**, Job - **Jb**, Psalms - **Ps**, Proverbs - **Pv**, Ecclesiastes - **Ec**, Song of Solomon - **Ss**, Isaiah - **Is**, Jeremiah - **Jr**, Lamentations - **Lm**, Ezekiel - **Ez**, Daniel - **Dn**, Hosea - **Hs**, Joel - **Jl**, Amos - **Am**, Obadiah - **Ob**, Jonah - **Jh**, Micah - **Mc**, Nahum - **Nh**, Habakkuk - **Hk**, Zephaniah - **Zp**, Haggai - **Hg**, Zechariah - **Zc**, Malachi - **Ml**

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew - **Mt**, Mark - **Mk**, Luke - **Lk**, John - **Jn**, Acts - **At**, Romans - **Rm**, 1 Corinthians - **1 Co**, 2 Corinthians - **2 Co**, Galatians - **Gl**, Ephesians - **Ep**, Philippians - **Ph**, Colossians - **Ci**, 1 Thessalonians - **1 Th**, 2 Thessalonians - **2 Th**, 1 Timothy - **1 Tm**, 2 Timothy - **2 Tm**, Titus - **Ti**, Philemon - **Pi**, Hebrews - **Hb**, James - **Js**, 1 Peter - **1 Pt**, 2 Peter - **2 Pt**, 1 John - **1 Jn**, 2 John - **2 Jn**, 3 John - **3 Jn**, Jude - **Jd**, Revelation - **Rv**

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