

LAYMAN'S SCHOOL OF TRAINING
HOLE 2 - ADVANCED BIBLE STUDY
LECTURE 1 - THE INTEGRITY OF THE WORD

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1. WHAT DOES INTEGRITY MEAN?

Trustworthy, honest, sound, reliable, incorruptible.

Heb 4:12 (Moffat) *"The Logos (Word) of God is a **living thing**, active and more cutting than any sword with a double edge, penetrating to the very thoughts and conceptions of the heart."*

12 (Weymouth) *"For the Word of God is **full of life and power...**"*

God's Word goes right into the **innermost intimacies** of a man's being - examining his thoughts and motives.

The **Logos** is the sum total of the revelation of God. It's everything God ever wanted you to know about Him.

The **Bible** is the WRITTEN Logos while **Jesus** is the LIVING Logos.

God and His Word are ONE - inseparable.

God is only as good as His Word is good - just like you're only as good as your word is good. **Eg.** If God said He will meet you at **Phil 4:19**, He will.

Jer 1:12b (NASB) *"...For I am watching over My word to perform it."*

No-one can dispute the integrity of Jesus Christ, therefore no-one can dispute the integrity of the Word, because they are ONE.

The Word is our **contact** with God and it is His contact with us.

Now the Father desires His Word to live on the earth again in the hearts and on the lips of His children, just as it did in the person of Jesus Christ.

NB. Jesus is your Lord to the extent that the Word dominates (or controls) your life.

2. WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is the written Word of God - the **Truth**.

Just like Jesus is the LIVING truth, so the word of God is the WRITTEN truth.

John 14:6 (NASB) *"Jesus said to him, '**I am the way, and the truth and the life, no-one comes to the Father but through Me.**'"*

John 17:17 (NASB) *"Sanctify (make holy) them in the truth; **Thy Word is truth.**"*

God's Word is eternal Truth and will never, never change. Your circumstances that contradict the Word can be changed by standing on the Truth of a Scripture and boldly saying, "It is written..."

3. WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?

God the **Holy Spirit** is the author of the Bible, and holy men of God were used to actually express His thoughts in writing. Prophets and Priests wrote the Old Testament, and the Evangelists and Apostles wrote the books of the New Testament.

2 Pet 1:20-21 (NASB) *"But know this first of all, that no **prophecy of Scripture** is a matter of one's own interpretation,*

21 *for no **prophecy** (of Scripture) was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."*

In **2 Samuel 23:2**, David prophesied, *"The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue."* (NASB)

Acts 1:16 (NASB) *"Brethren, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit FORETOLD by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus."*

4. WHAT DOES THE EXPRESSION, "THE WORD OF GOD" MEAN?

"The Word of God" means that God has spoken or expressed Himself. Just as we exchange ideas by speaking words, God spoke to us by the life of His Son - the LIVING WORD.

John 1:1,14 (NASB) *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

Heb 1:1-2 (NASB) *"God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,*

2a in these last days has spoken to us in His Son..."

Today God speaks to us by the eternal WRITTEN WORD.

1 Pet 1:25 (NASB) *"But the Word of the Lord abides forever, and this is the Word that was preached to you."*

Matt 24:35 (NASB) *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not (or will never - NIV) pass away."*

5. WHY IS THE BIBLE THE WORD OF GOD ALTHOUGH IT WAS WRITTEN BY MAN?

The Bible is the Word of God because these writers were inspired by God to write His thoughts.

2 Tim 3:16a (Rotherham) *"Every Scripture is God-breathed..."*

16a (TCNT) *"Every Scripture is God-inspired..."*

16 (Phillips) *"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the faith and correcting error, for re-settling the direction of a man's life and training him in good living."*

1 Thes 2:13 (Rotherham) *"And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when ye received a spoken Word from us - which was God's - ye welcomed it - not as a human word - but as what it really is - the teaching of God - which is also inwardly working itself in you who believe."*

13 (NASB) *"...which also performs it's work in you who believe."*

6. WHAT DOES "BY INSPIRATION OF GOD" MEAN?

Greek - Theopneustos: God - breathed. It is that special influence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of holy men, which qualified and enabled them to make an infallible record of divine truth concerning the will of God to man.

We find lies of satan and men; false doctrines and many sins listed in Scripture. Inspiration simply guarantees that these lies were told, these fallacies were taught, and these crimes were committed, but it does not make the lies and fallacies the truth, or place God's sanction upon the crimes. **One must find whether satan, evil men or God is speaking** in Scripture. Only what God says or teaches is the truth - this He requires man to obey. The sins listed in Scripture are not for our example to follow, but to warn us of the consequences of sin. If no sin had ever been listed in Scripture we would not know the perilous dangers

of sin.

Eg. Job 1:21b (NASB) *"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."*

Now what Job said does not harmonize with what God says in the following verses. So who are we going to believe.

Rom 11:29 (NASB) *"...for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."*

Irrevocable - Oxford: Unalterable, gone beyond recall.

2 Cor 13:1 (NASB) *"This is the third time I am coming to you. **Every fact is to be confirmed** by the testimony of **two or three** witnesses."*

James 1:17 (NASB) *"Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the **Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.**"*

Mal 3:6 (NASB) *"For I, **the Lord do not change**; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed."*

Num 23:19 (NASB) *"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent (or be sorry later for what He promised); **Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?**"*

7. FOR WHAT PURPOSE DID GOD GIVE US THE BIBLE?

God gave us the Bible so we could understand His will and purpose about things that are spiritual and natural.

2 Tim 3:15-17 (NASB) *"...and that from childhood you have known the **sacred writings** which are **able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

16 *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;*

17 *that **the man of God may be adequate, equipped for EVERY good work.**"*

Psa 119:105 (NASB) *"Thy **Word** is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*

ILLUSTRATION: Like a torch in a pitch black forrest at night with wild animals everywhere. We need the light of God's Word to shine us a sure path in this world of darkness.

8. WHAT USE SHOULD WE MAKE OF THE BIBLE?

We should diligently and reverently **read and study the Bible**, listen attentively when it is read and explained, **believe it and live according to it.** We show our love for Jesus by loving and obeying His Word.

John 14:23 (NASB) *"Jesus answered and said unto him **"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him."***

1 John 2:5 (NASB) *"...but whoever keeps His Word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him."*

1 John 5:3 (NASB) *"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome."*

9. WHAT ARE THE TWO GREAT DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE?

Law and Grace (Law and Gospel).

10. WHAT IS THE LAW?

The Law is that teaching of the Bible in which God tells us how we are to live, and what we are to do and not to do.

Deut 6:6-9 (NASB) "And these **words**, which I am commanding you today, **shall be on your heart;**
7 and you shall **teach them diligently** to your sons and shall **talk of them** when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.
8 And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand (God's Word is to be your strength) and they shall be as frontals on your forehead (your thoughts are to be centered around the Word of God).
9 And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (Doing the Word is to be the first thing you should think of when you come in or go out, ie. live it at home and at work.)

11. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

"Gospel" means "Good News". The Gospel is that doctrine of the Bible in which God tells us the Good News of our Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

John 3:16,36 (NASB) "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

36 He who believes in the Son Has eternal life; but he who does not OBEY the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Rom 1:16 (NASB) "For I am not ashamed of the **Gospel**, for it is the power of God for **SALVATION** to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

Salvation - Greek: Safety, preservation, health, deliverance from molestation and danger, salvation from sin.

12. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL?

i) The Law teaches what we are to do and not to do; the Gospel teaches what God has done (and is still doing in us) for our Salvation, thus giving us the power to keep the laws of God.

Gal 2:20-21 (NASB) "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is **no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live **by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.

21 I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."

ii) The Law shows our sin and the wrath of God; the Gospel shows us our Saviour and the Grace of God.

Ezek 18:4b (NASB) "...The soul who sins will die."

Rom 6:23 (NASB) "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

13. WHAT ARE THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE (OR CANON OF SCRIPTURE)? (Canon - Oxford: List of Bible books accepted by the Church).

The Bible is not simply one book, but rather a **library or compilation of sixty-six books** bound together. Every Christian should know the books of the Holy Bible so that he can easily find the Scripture he is desirous of reading. They are easily memorized if taken in groups as listed below. Since both the Old and New Testament's have Five Major Sections each, an easy memory aid is to use the Five Fingers on each hand.

OLD TESTAMENT (39)

The Law (5)	History (12)	Poetry (5)	Major Prophets (5)	Minor Prophets (12)
Genesis	Joshua	Job	Isaiah	Hosea
Exodus	Judges	Psalms	Jeremiah	Joel
Leviticus	Ruth	Proverbs	Lamentations	Amos

Numbers	1&2 Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel	Obadiah
Deuteronomy	1&2 Kings	Song of Sol	Daniel	Jonah
	1&2 Chron			Micah
	Ezra			Nahum
	Nehemiah			Habakkuk
	Esther			Zephaniah
				Haggai
				Zechariah
				Malachi

NEW TESTAMENT (27)

The Gospels (4) History (1)

Matthew Acts
Mark
Luke
John

Pauline Epistles (14)

Romans
1&2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1&2 Thessalonians
1&2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews

General Epistles (7)

James
1&2 Peter
1,2&3 John
Jude

Prophecy (1)

Revelation

14. HOW IS THE BIBLE DIVIDED?

The Bible is divided into the Old Testament, written before the coming of Jesus Christ, and the New Testament, written after His ascension into Heaven.

15. HOW MANY MEN DID GOD USE IN WRITING THE BIBLE?

Approximately **44 writers** were used by God in the course of **twenty centuries** to write the Bible without any contradiction. This alone proves the Divine inspiration of the Word.

Gal 6:11 (NASB) "See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand."

16. SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE?

There are 1189 chapters in the Bible; 929 in the Old Testament; 260 in the New Testament.

The longest verse is **Esther 8:9**.

The shortest verse is **John 11:35**.

THE MIDDLE OF THE BIBLE:

Did you know that:

- i) Psalm 118 is the middle chapter of the entire Bible?
- ii) Psalm 117, before Psalm 118 is the shortest chapter in the Bible?
- iii) Psalm 119, after Psalm 118 is the longest chapter in the Bible?
- iv) The Bible has 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after Psalm 118?

- v) If you add up all the chapters except Psalm 118, you get a total of 1188 chapters.
- vi) 1188 or Psalm 118 verse 8 is the middle verse of the entire Bible?
Should the central verse not have a fairly important message?

Psa 118:8 "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man."

Is this central verse not also the central theme of the entire Bible?

17. WHAT WILL HELP MOTIVATE ME TO DECIDE TO BECOME A SERIOUS STUDENT OF THE BIBLE?

You will become a daily, serious student of the Bible when you realize that you absolutely need it.

Many believe they SHOULD study the Bible, but few are convinced that such **study is indispensable**. We need to become as convinced that the Word of God does for our spirit what a good meal does for our body - feeds it to cause growth.

Job 23:12 (NASB) "I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have **treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food (or daily bread - NIV).**"

Matt 4:4 (NASB) But He (Jesus) answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

HOMework FOR LECTURE 1

1. Memorize **2 Timothy 3:16-17** from point 7 of this lecture. This is worth 20% towards your test result.
2. Spend 10 minutes a day meditating on your notes till these truths register on your spirit man and as preparation for a true or false test next week.
3. Set aside a definite time period each day to pray and meditate on the Word (ie. have a Spiritual Time - S.T.)
4. Buy a S.T. (Spiritual Time) notebook tomorrow.
5. Have 7 days Spiritual Time notes entered into this book and a verse from each day's reading that really spoke to you.
6. Bring this book with you next week.
7. As you register next week you will need to show this book to the secretaries on duty, and it will count for 10% towards your test results.
8. An 80% pass mark is required.
NB. Do your homework each day and there will be no heavy burden for you at the end of the week.