

PGW Sunday School April 2020
Being Christian-Baptism, Bible, Eucharist and Prayer

Chapter 2 Bible

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.

(2Ti 3:14-16 ESV)

2019 BCP Prayer Page 598 Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent

“ Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of the your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever, AMEN.”

Chapter divided into four parts

Hearing God's voice

“Christians are people who expect to be spoken to by God”, R. Williams pg. 21

The Alpha course Session 6 “How does God Guide us?” Commanding Scripture

Williams is quick to add pg. 24 “but you soon discover that what the Bible is not is a single sequence of instructions, beginning with God says to you....” Not a rule book

It is really just a book about law, or history or poetry

Yes and no?

It is what God wants us to hear?

TSM Professor “the Bible we have is the Bible God wants us to have”

Hearing the Whole Story

(Creation, Fall, Redemption and New Creation and/or Kingdom or Covenant)

Jesus doesn't just pronounce laws, no he tells stories

Pg 27 one of my favorite quotes

"That means that the whole of the story of the Bible is intended to have an effect on you (us). It is intended to draw us in and make us think about ourselves in relationship to God" Williams pg. 27

"We need in other words, to guard against the temptation to take just a bit of the whole story and treat it as somehow a model for our own behaviour." Williams, pg. 29

The Bible is:

- a. **Historic**-not simply here is a story, but here is your story, your life began with Adam and Eve, you are a relative of Noah, Abraham and Moses
***Yes, history matters, but that does not mean that you should lose your faith because the chronology of King Belshazzar's reign in the Book of Daniel, does not square with what people dig up in the Middle East on Archeological expeditions."
Rather than get hung up on facts, let's ask "what does God want me to tell us?"

History matters and we need to remember that there was a real historical time when the real people of Babylon were thinking about lions, the threat of death and the challenge of resistance.

Christ at the Centre

"Here is the story in which the speaking of God and the responding of human beings are bound together inseparably." Williams, pg.35

"So reading the bible is about listening to God in Jesus." Williams pg. 36

Reading the Bible together

Question:

Why is it important for Christians to read the bible in light of the life and teaching of Jesus?