

1. The Holy Scriptures

The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by inspiration through holy men of God who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy spirit. In this Word, God has committed to man the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the authoritative revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God's acts in history.

The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments make up the Holy Scriptures. God has given us the Bible to reveal His will and to point us to salvation. Scripture is:

- The source of the knowledge essential for salvation. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- The revealer of right doctrine and God's will. John 17:17; Isaiah 8:20
- The record of God's dealings with mankind. 1 Corinthians 10:11
- All Scripture is Christ-centred. John 5:39-40

Texts for further study: Psalm 119:81-136; Hebrews 4:12

The Bible is God's inspired and infallible message to humanity and must be studied with His guidance. We must not add to or subtract from it.

- The Scriptures bear God's authority, not man's. 2 Peter 1:20-21
- Human beings need the Holy Spirit's guidance to understand God as He is revealed in Scripture. 1 Corinthians 2:9-14
- We should study all parts of the Bible to find truth. Luke 24:27, 44
- Daily Bible study is important to keep us from deception. Acts 17:11

Texts for further study: Proverbs 30:5-6; I Thessalonians 2:13; Revelation 22:18-19

Personal Application

-  Because God, the greatest Being in the universe, has taken time to reveal Himself to me, how much time each day should I commit to prayerful study of His Word?
-  How should I react when I discover in Bible study that I need to make some changes in my life in order to come into harmony with God's will?
-  Which of my friends, family members, and neighbours would be helped by discovering that God has revealed Himself and His plans in the Bible?
-  It is good to know that God has not just left me to drift aimlessly through life without any guidelines. Because I have the Bible to read, I can come to know God as a friend and helper, and can search out His wisdom and His will for my life.

Commitment

- Thank You, God, for revealing Yourself and Your will in the Bible. I will search its pages for truth, and, by Your grace, live my life in harmony with its teachings.