

January 2018

Sunday 7

(No Evening Service)
Services 8.00am & 9.30am
Psalm 131
Hope in the Lord Part 2
Carel Pienaar

**NEW SERVICE TIMES FROM
SUNDAY 14 JANUARY:
8.00AM 10.00AM 6.00PM**

Sunday 14

8.00am 10.00am 6.00pm
1. What are your biggest fears?
Death & Eternity
Murray Anderson

Sunday 21

8.00am 10.00am 6.00pm
2. What are your biggest fears?
Instability & Corruption in South
Africa
Murray Anderson

Monday 22

Fellowship Group Social week

Saturday 27

9.00am -11.30am
Fellowship Group Leaders Training



Sunday 28

8.00am 10.00am 6.00pm
3. What are your biggest fears?
Crime & Violence
Murray Anderson

Tuesday 30

Fellowship Groups:
Read Scripture: 1. Psalm 19

Wednesday 31

Fellowship Groups:
Read Scripture: 1. Psalm 19

February

Friday 2

CoolClub 5.45pm – 7.15pm
Grade 1-4
7UP 5.45pm – 7.15pm
Grade 5-7
Hood 7.30pm – 9.00pm
Grade 8-12

Sunday 4

8.00am 10.00am 6.00pm
4. What are your biggest fears?
Financial Loss & Insecurity
Murray Anderson



2017 marked the 500-year anniversary of the Reformation. One of the key points for which Protestants contested was “*Sola Scriptura*” (Scripture alone). The basic point was that God has revealed Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ (Jn. 14:6-7), and this revelation of God is preserved in the Bible by the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14-16). Every Christian can and should read the Bible for themselves, knowing God personally through Jesus as revealed in the Bible. So, I would like to highlight three things about the Bible and suggest some

practical steps you can take in your journey in knowing God through the Bible... So, as we look at the Bible, realize that...

1. True blessing is found in the Bible

The Psalter opens with a Psalm dedicated to describing someone who is “*blessed*”. The word “*blessed*” does not merely mean material blessing, but refers to a life that is whole (in harmony or in-sync with God and creation). A life lived as it should be. According to the Ps. 1:2, a blessed person is someone whose “*delight is in the Law of the LORD, and on His Law he meditates day and night*”.

It is in God’s Law that we discover who God is the one we are supposed to know and reflect. It is in the Law we see God’s holiness, “*Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy*” (Lev. 19:2). It is in the Law we see God’s love, “*The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness*” (Ex. 34:6). And it is only in the Law that God revealed Himself in such a specific way (cf. Ex. 19-20; Deut. 4:8). The fullest expression of the Law, the One in whom all



of the Law is brought into clearest focus, is the Word Himself, Jesus (cf. Matt. 5:17-18; Jn. 5:39; Lk. 24:27, 44-47). Consequently, if you want to know God personally,

know who you are individually, and how you can live life as it was meant to be lived continually (a blessed life) ... you will only find it in the Bible (Old and New Testament with Jesus as the glue that binds them together).

2. The Bible shapes us into who God wants us to be (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

In 2 Tim. 3:16-17, Paul points out that the Bible should be used by Timothy for "*teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness*". If you read it in the light of the entire letter, Paul's point should be clear. It reveals God in Christ, it rebukes and corrects our thoughts and desires that are not in line with Christ and it trains us to become like Christ (cf. 2 Tim. 1:9-10, 13; 2:8-9). And it is only as we are shaped by God's Word that "*the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*". To become who you are made to be (an image-bearer of God), you must know the One in whose image you are made. And to be made in His image, you need use His chisel: The Bible. That will only happen as you behold Christ revealed in the Scriptures (cf. 2 Cor. 3:18).

3. The Bible reveals eternal life/salvation (2 Tim. 1:10)

One of the reasons Paul was willing to sacrifice his life (cf. 2 Tim. 2:9; 4:6-7) (die a martyr's death) for the message of Jesus (as you have it in your Old and New Testament), was because he understood what this message revealed, "*it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel*" (2 Tim. 1:10). The destruction of death (our enemy) and eternal life with God (our hope) is revealed in the Scriptures. In the Scriptures are revealed the depths of our salvation, the plan of God to restore creation and us as His image-bearers. Nowhere else.

If this is all true (and it is), then that leads to our practical application...

4. How will you start knowing the Scriptures?

a) Get into the habit of reading it repeatedly, systematically and thoughtfully

Whatever you do, don't approach the Bible like a random collection of loose sayings (like a proverb

on a sugar packet). Every word has a context, written in a particular book, genre and style. So to understand them, you need to read them properly. For example, when you start reading a book in the Bible (like the Gospel of John), don't pick a random verse in the middle. It was meant to be read from cover to cover (starting in chapter 1 and ending in the final chapter). Yet, you shouldn't read John's Gospel alone. It fits into a collection of books (known as the Gospels) that all focus on Jesus and link with the letters of John. So, when you are done reading the Gospel of John, pick up another Gospel or the letters of John. Yet, there is another way in helping speed up the process of understanding the Bible...

b) Use the following Applications...

- Bible Project's Read Scripture: <https://thebibleproject.com/readscripture.org>

This is probably one of the best resources available. It is an incredibly helpful tool that will be a great companion in your journey in understanding the Bible with a fantastic 1 year reading plan.

- The Explore App (by Good Book Company): <https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/explore-app>

Although free to download and use the Explore App also offers in-store books and guides that you can purchase to use in your reading. Like the Bible Project App, it is a great companion in reading the Bible.

So as we remember what we have received from the Reformers (the privilege of personally reading the Bible in our own language), why not begin applying one of the principles of the Reformation, namely *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture Alone). You have the precious gift of the Bible, don't waste another moment not reading it. As a child of God, start the journey of knowing God by walking through the pages of Scripture. That is where the blessed life begins.

Carel Pienaar

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