



The Scriptures



BIBLE DOCTRINE STUDIES #1



By J. PAUL RENO

THE SCRIPTURES
Bible Doctrine Studies #1

By
J. Paul Reno
Pastor and Author

Published by
Blessed Hope Publishers
Hagerstown, Md.

All Scripture quotations in this book are taken
from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

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BIBLE DOCTRINE

The Scriptures

What a person believes about the Bible will determine what they will believe about the teachings of the Bible. A weakness in the doctrine of the Scriptures usually shows up in other areas later. The shallowness and heresies of our day are the result of wrong thinking about inspiration, preservation, interpretation, application, and the sufficiency of the Scriptures. Every cult and ism can be exposed at this point.

II Tim. 3:15-17

1. Five purposes of Scriptures

- a) Salvation
- b) Doctrine
- c) Reproof
- d) Correction
- e) Instruction in Righteousness

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2. Sufficiency – What the Scriptures can do in and of themselves:

- a) “Able”
- b) “Perfect” – well-rounded, properly balance, fully prepared
- c) “All good works”
- d) Such adequacy does not require extra Biblical helps

3. Origin – “of God”

4. Inspiration

- a) Not to be confused with two other processes:
 - ~ Revelation – God revealing truths and/or His Son to us (**I Cor. 2:9,10; Matt. 11:25-27; 18:17**)
 - ~ Illumination – getting light, insight, and understanding on a given subject

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- b) Opposite of expire (breathe out or lose breath of life)
- c) Breathe in the breath of life
- d) Process God used for giving Scriptures
 - ~ Not inspired men
 - ~ Inspired Scriptures
- e) Similar to mouth-to-mouth resuscitation of drowning victims ... one breathes for the other, thus dominating the breathing
- f) This process was used exclusively for Scripture

II Pet. 1:16-21

1. Scriptures are contrasted with devised fables
2. Scriptures are superior to personal experience, even that of the Mount of Transfiguration
3. Scriptures did not come by man's will

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4. The Holy Ghost was the source and the force of inspiration
~ "moved" the man
5. God only used holy men

1 Pet. 1:9-12

1. Men wrote and then tried to get understanding
2. Words, not thoughts, were given by God
3. Words would have to be God's words, not men's words (**Matt. 4:4**)
4. If, as some teach, God gave thoughts and men then put in their own words, obviously they would have understood what they wrote:
~ The Scriptures would be of no higher value than the intelligence of the writers

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~ We would be robbed of the preciseness and clarity of the Scriptures, for they could then have been written in a multitude of ways as long as the thought might be found therein

I Thess. 2:13

1. The Bible is God's Word, not man's word
2. The Bible is to be received as God's Word
3. Salvation is tied to our attitude towards the Scriptures (**Prov. 13:13**).

Matt. 22:29

1. Ignorance of the Scriptures leads to error (**Hosea 4:1-14**)
2. Jesus expected people to have a working knowledge of the Old Testament

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II Pet. 3:15, 16 – Wrong attitude or use of Scriptures brings destruction

Rev. 22:18, 19

1. Danger of adding to the Scriptures
2. Danger of taking away from the Scriptures
3. God is obviously finished writing Scriptures

Matt. 15:1-6

1. Two foundations of belief
 - ~ Tradition
 - ~ Scripture
2. Jesus sided with Scripture against tradition
3. Religious leaders had used tradition to avoid the commands of Scripture

Luke 16:29-31

1. Sufficiency of Scriptures to bring sinners to repentance

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2. Scriptures have more authority than one returning from the dead

Luke 24:25-27

1. Jesus expected a belief in all of the Scriptures (as written)
2. All the Scriptures speak of Jesus
3. We should so study that we could start at any place and point someone to Jesus
4. There is far more to Jesus than most people suspect

Luke 24:44-49

1. We need God's help to have our understanding opened
2. Our ministry must be preceded by getting an understanding from the Scripture
3. The extent of our ministry is related to our understanding of the Scripture

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John 5:39, 45-47

1. Scriptures alone can't save
2. The Scriptures alone tell of Jesus who can save.
3. Study to see Jesus
4. Doubt one part and you cannot believe in Jesus
 - ~ Especially this applies to the first five books of the Bible including Creation, Fall, Flood, Law, Miracles, etc.

I Cor. 2:9-14

1. Scriptures are taught by God Himself (**I John 2:20, 27**)
2. Believers only can get a proper understanding

Heb. 1:1-3

1. The Bible is progressive in revelation

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2. Consider the progress in the prophecies of Jesus

Consider the Bible:

1. Unique in trustworthiness: no conflict with science, geography, racial history, chronological history, biographical history, events of history – archeology never contradicts it
2. Unique in subject matter: sin, sinners, sovereign God, hell, salvation, prophecy, miraculous, Saviour, judgment, view of evil, view of the world
3. Unity of purpose: 66 books, 40+ authors (prince, King, priest, farmer, shepherd, doctor, slave, tax-collector prisoner, fisherman, tentmaker), 3 languages, 3 continents, 16 centuries, various cultures (Egyptian, Jewish, Syrian, Medeo-Persian, Babylonian, Roman)

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4. Fulfillment of prophecy – in precise accuracy, great detail, given long before flow of events in that direction; includes the miraculous happening, etc.
5. Lives changed by its teachings
6. Preservation principle: against great foes, Israel as a people, the Church as a witness, and the Scriptures themselves!

Amos 8:11, 12

1. Prophetic passage telling of future problem
2. Coming famine of the *“the words of the Lord”*
3. No evidence of a shortage of religion
4. Desire for the Word is present but the supply is gone

Jer. 23:30

1. God’s Words are stolen from people

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2. Perhaps something much weaker is left in its place
3. The stealing is done by religious leaders who are near, or neighbors to those stolen from
4. God is "against" all that would remove the actual words of God from us

II Cor. 2:17

1. The corruption of God's Word was well underway in Paul's day
2. The majority seemed to be for corruption
3. The position for purity of God's Word seems to have been held by the minority even then

I Pet. 1:23, 25

1. The Scriptures are necessary for one to be "***born again***".

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2. Some of the traits of the “**Word of God**” (by which people are saved) are:
 - ~ not corruptible but incorruptible
 - ~ liveth forever
 - ~ abideth forever
 - ~ endureth forever
3. There must be two kinds; pure and corrupt
4. God blesses that which is pure

Matt. 7:15-20

1. Interpretation is obviously regarding ministers.
2. Fruits reveal either a good or corrupt source.
3. While this involves the nature of the minister, it can also well apply to the nature of the ministry.
4. Use of good Bibles will produce different results than the use of corrupt Bibles.

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Psm. 119:89

1. God's Word is a settled matter – unchangeable
2. David said it was settled (more than 3000 years ago)
3. The “settling” is a matter of forever – past, present, future
 - ~ never been unsettled
 - ~ never will be unsettled
4. Location of the settling is in heaven

Psm. 119:160

1. God's Word has always been true
2. God's Word has existed from the beginning
3. God's judgments will all survive and stand the test of time – endure forever

Psm. 138:2

1. God has “*magnified*” His Word

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2. God cares more about His Word than His Name
3. Consider Commandment #3 and (**Rev. 22:18, 19**)

Matt. 5:18

1. O.T. Law is safe in accuracy
2. Jot and tittle are Hebrew letter markings
 - ~ God won't allow the change of a letter, much less the change of a word or phrase

Mark 13:31 (also Luke 21:33)

1. Words of Jesus are safe in accuracy
2. Jesus' Words can never be destroyed

Luke 16:17

1. Difficulty in changing one letter of the Law
2. Law will continue, – not fail

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John 10:35b

1. ***“Scripture cannot be broken”***
2. The Bible is a unit not to be broken into pieces
3. Scripture must be fulfilled (**Acts 13:29**)

John 17:17

1. Bible is to be trusted
2. Not only full of truth; but is truth in and of itself
3. One of the answers to Pilate’s question, ***“What is truth?”*** (**John 18:38a**)

Psm. 119:140

1. Purity claimed for Scriptures
2. Purity of unquestionable character, - ***“very pure”***

Psm. 12:6, 7

1. Purity is complete, – like the finest silver

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The Scriptures

2. God guarantees the preservation of the very words, forever

Consider the versions:

1. All English Bibles are translations of either pure or corrupt Scriptures – Hebrew, Chaldean, and Greek
2. Biggest area of difference today is in the N.T., tho O.T. also has much variance
3. Contrast Greek Manuscripts
 - ~ quantity
 - ~ age
 - ~ condition
 - ~ location
 - ~ material
 - ~ style of Greek
 - ~ origin
4. Source of manuscripts, who accepts which, who used which etc.

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5. Fruit of various manuscripts – Hidden Seed, Reformation, Fundamentalism, Evangelism, Missions, Colleges, Seminaries, Power, Holiness, Separation, Liberalism, Faith Ministries, Neo-Evangelicalism, approach to interpretation of Scriptures
6. Changes and their influence on doctrine – Virgin Birth, Deity of Jesus, Miracles, Trinity, Blood Atonement, Lordship, Repentance, Fastings, Resurrection, Faith, Incarnation, and more.
7. Motives for new versions

Eph. 6:17

1. Word belongs to the Holy Spirit
2. Likened to a sword, - offensive part of our armour

Psm. 119:9

1. Word can cleanse our way

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2. Cleansing comes from listening to and obeying the Word

Psm. 119:11

1. Word to be memorized
2. One purpose of memorization is to keep from sinning
3. Sinning is against God

Psm. 119:63

1. Individual response to the Word sets the bounds of fellowship
2. Obedience makes for companions
3. Disobedience costs closeness to those who continue to obey

Psm. 119:72

1. Scriptures to be highly valued by us
2. Scriptures to be chosen as better than great wealth

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3. Must never choose money over the Scriptures speaking to us

Psm. 119:105

1. Word gives us light to live by
2. Idea is a foot lamp that lights the path one step at a time

Psm. 119:126

1. The Law is a necessity for Revival
2. Need and time for Revival is evidenced by others making “**void**” (or of no use), the Law of God

Psm. 119:126

1. The Scriptures can produce peace.
2. The Law is tied to peace – it settles issues for us
3. Peace is great when we love God’s law

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4. Sufficient love produces peace that ends in nothing offending us

RULES OF BIBLE INTERPRETATION

II Tim. 2:15

1. Scriptures are to be divided, but not broken
2. The division must be done rightly and not wrongly
3. It takes much study and work
4. Wrongly dividing produces shame
5. Rightly dividing brings God's approval

Mark 7:9, 13

1. We must never allow men's commandments (decrees, laws, writings, commentaries, etc.) to become doctrine. They often can confuse our understanding of the Bible.

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2. Men's traditions (religious, cultural, social, and historical, etc.) are no help to understanding the Bible.
3. Men's commandments and traditions often replace or make void the Word of God.

Jer. 23:36

1. We are not to change the obvious meaning of God's Words
2. God meant what He said or He would have said it otherwise
 - ~ God has never been incapable of communicating clearly to humans

II Cor. 4:2

1. God's Word is to be handled honestly
2. We must never misuse or deceive to win an argument

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Heb. 4:2

1. Not all people benefit the same from the Scriptures – some get no profit
2. The problem is not with the Scriptures or the speaker, but with the hearer
3. God's Word is to be mixed with faith when heard and studied

II Pet. 3:16

1. God's Word is to be left as stated, and not wrested or twisted into some other meaning.
2. Unlearned and unstable individuals are particularly tempted to try to twist Scriptures which they don't understand.
3. Twisting or wresting Scriptures from its context and the rest of the Bible brings destruction

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I Tim. 6:20

1. Avoid the opposition of counterfeit sciences (true science will always agree with the Bible)
2. Avoid the common, corrupt, and/or proud babblings (noise without substance, circular reasoning, and illogical statements) that attack the Bible

I Pet. 1:11

1. Writers took literally what God had them write
2. They didn't strain, charge, or maim what God said, but took their own lack of understanding as an evidence of their own ignorance. They then set out to study and try to grasp how things could happen as God had said.

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The Scriptures

- Anything that can be taken literally should be taken as written.
- People who spiritualize Scripture usually have no spiritual eyes and end up telling spiritual lies.
- God said what He meant and meant what He said.
- We believe God's Word whether we understand it or not. Don't try to bring Scripture down to your understanding.
- Any Scripture has only one correct interpretation ... though it may have several possible applications.
- Applications can never violate or annul Bible teaching through interpretations.
- Never use applications, parables, allegories, types, etc. as the foundation for a teaching. They only illustrate what God stated clearly.

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II Pet. 1:20

1. No one person can interpret for everybody
2. No one is free to interpret Scripture as he pleases
3. No Scripture can be interpreted separately from all of the rest of Scripture

James 1:22

1. God's Word – to be heard and lived
2. Hearing without living is self-deception

Luke 24:25

1. All Scripture is to be believed
2. All Scripture is to be taken as given
3. Often it takes an act of God to get us to believe what we should have trusted all along (**John 2:22**)
4. Right worship is tied to full belief of all the Scriptures (**Acts 24:14**)

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Eph. 6:17

1. Bible belongs to God
 2. It is God's Word, not men's thoughts
 1. God said it as He wanted it
- Who can say it better than God? Who is more accurate than God? Who is clearer than God? Who can say it more powerfully than God? Who better knows how to say enough without saying too much?
 - God's Word talks to us. We are to listen, obey, and live it.
 - Consider: Context
Who speaks
Who is spoken to
Rest of Scriptures on the subject
 - Fulfilled prophecies of Scripture were always fulfilled literally!

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- One Scripture doesn't contradict other Scriptures (**John 10:35**)
- The Bible is its own best commentary
- Error is usually not the opposite of truth, but rather one part of the truth taken to an extreme at the neglect of the rest of truth.

Rev. 1:20

1. God often defines the terms used as pictures
2. These explanations are to be taken literally

Mark 4:1-20

1. Jesus occasionally explained parables
2. These explanations are to be taken literally

Daniel 8:1-27

1. Dreams and visions were often explained
2. Take these explanations literally

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Gal. 4:22-31

1. Allegories were sometimes explained
 2. Take these explanations literally
- Understand the following and the differences between:
 - ~ Dreams
 - ~ Visions
 - ~ Parables
 - ~ Illustrations
 - ~ Allegories
 - ~ Types
 - ~ Anti-types
 - ~ Comparisons
 - ~ Word Pictures
 - Understand how to recognize each of the above
 - Understand the use of each of the above
 - Watch out for the abuse of each of the above

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John 5:46, 47

1. Jesus expected us to take the Bible literally
2. Unbelief in Scriptures brings unbelief in Jesus' words

~ **John 2:17, 22** – The disciples learned to take the Bible literally

~ **Acts 20:35** – The Apostle Paul took the Scriptures literally

~ **Acts 7:37** – Stephen took the Scriptures literally

~ **Acts 2:16-18, 25-31** – Peter took the Scriptures literally

~ **James 2:10, 11** – James took the Scriptures literally

~ **Rev. 3:7** – John took the Scriptures literally (**Isa. 22:22**)

~ **Daniel 9:1-4** – Daniel took the Scriptures literally (**Jer. 25:11, 12**)

How else would you normally approach a book, literature, accounts, or a letter?

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WAYS TO LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

The Bible is like a gold mine. Its precious treasures require your effort and taking of planned steps if you are to make them your own. Otherwise they will lie there waiting for someone else to discover, and you will remain poor.

I. Consider your desires and attitudes:

I Pet. 2:2

1. The Word must be desired
2. We must seek as a newborn babe desires milk
3. We should yearn to grow

Rom. 15:4

1. All Scripture is practical and for our benefit
2. We must approach the Scriptures with patience

Psm. 119:10

1. We should seek God through the Scriptures with our whole heart
2. We should watch and pray that we do not wander from His commandments

Psm. 119:103

1. We should learn the taste of the Scriptures – sweet!
2. It requires chewing, absorbing, – not swallowing quickly

I Thess. 4:11

1. Quietness to learn is needed
2. We must study on how to get quiet
3. Devotions are often called "*The Quiet Time with God*"

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II. We must take time to hear from God:

Psm. 119:147, 148

1. Before sunrise
2. Throughout the night
3. Don't restrict learning time to a few moments a day
4. Trust the Word in the morning and meditate on it at night
 - ~ confidence for actions
 - ~ reflection on God's Word as applied to the day's activities

III. We should have a plan:

Psm. 119:18, 27, 28

1. Ask God for help in learning
2. Pray for strength

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Psm. 119:15

1. Meditate on God's Word
 - ~ think it over
 - ~ compare with other Scriptures
 - ~ chew on it until it becomes part of you

Psm. 119:11

1. Memorize it
2. Have it not only in your head, but also in your heart to govern your life's decisions and emotions

Psm. 119:7

1. Bible is to be learned
2. Learning is usually best when accomplished three different ways:

READING

- ~ reading through the Bible chapter by chapter, book by book, just as it is written

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- ~ this will give you a general idea of its contents the first several times
- ~ after a while, you will get a feel for certain books and begin to grasp the relationship of various truths

DEVOTIONAL

- ~ taking a certain passage and letting the truths seep into our souls
- ~ often this will come from some verse or verses God impressed on you as you go through your Bible readings
- ~ devotional guides are a help but should never replace the Holy Spirit's speaking directly to your soul from the pure Word

STUDYING

- ~ this requires great effort but helps us stay out of error and rightly divide the Word (II Tim. 2:15).

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- ~ there is a variety of approaches and a blend is better than using only one style:
 - a. Read a book or chapter through 10-100 times
 - ~ outline
 - ~ find key thoughts, words, ideas, themes
 - ~ find relationships etc.
 - b. Trace a word, principle, or doctrine through a book or the Bible
 - c. Study a person, place, or thing

IV. Let God the Holy Spirit teach you:

John 14:26

1. The Holy Spirit is our teacher
2. He can teach us all things

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I John 2:27

1. The Holy Spirit is always right
 2. We must learn to abide in Him
- ~ more on this subject under the study of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit



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