

## THE INFLUENCE OF THE BIBLE IN OUR LIVES

### EPHESIANS 3:3,4

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. How important are the words of God? (Gen. 3.3,4)
2. The New Testament is encompass our entire lives. (Heb. 8.7-9)
3. How can we be sure that the word of God is the dominant influence in our lives?

#### I. THE BIBLE IS THE REVELATION FROM GOD

##### A. EPHESIANS 3.3: *"how that by revelation..."*

1. In the Middle Ages, the Bible was not easily available.
2. Bible (biblios): "book" But the Bible is more than just a book, it is God's revelation to man! (2 Tim. 3.16,17)

##### B. The Bible contains the revealed secrets of God.

1. God had things that mankind did not know. It was a "mystery" (Eph. 3,3,5; 1 Pet. 1.10-12)
2. The Bible contains words to live by. (Matt. 4.4)
3. Do not think beyond this book. (1 Cor. 4.6)

#### II. THE BIBLE IS A BOOK TO BE READ

##### A. EPHESIANS 3.4: *"by which, when you read..."*

1. Christians need to understand the will of the Lord, but before we can understand, we need to read. (Eph. 5.17)
2. Read (anagnosis): "to know again" (cf. 1 Tim. 6.20)

##### B. Every one of us needs to find time in the day to read our Bibles. Can you find fifteen minutes a day?

#### III. THE BIBLE IS A BOOK TO BE UNDERSTOOD

##### A. EPHESIANS 3.4: *"...you may understand..."*

1. Do you read to understand or do you skim? (2 Tim. 2.15)
2. Understand (noeo) "to exercise the mind" If you don't use it, you will lose it. (Heb. 5.12-14)

##### B. To read the Bible so as to understand it is to become wise, but to ignore it is to be foolish. (Matt. 7.24-27)

**CONCLUSION:** The words that Jesus spoke are life, and they will judge us in the last day. (John 6.63; 12.48)

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*"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"*  
-Mark 16.15

**May 25, 2025**

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#### MEETING TIMES:

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM**  
**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM**  
**SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM**  
**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM**

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### STRUGGLES AT ANY AGE

The first epistle of John was written to show conditions of fellowship and to warn of things that might break their fellowship with God. John identifies three groups with specific applications.

In 1 John 2.13, John writes to *"fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning."* A father was one who was a mature Christian. When facing threats to fellowship, fathers need to set an example and show us how to do it (Phil. 3.17).

In 1 John 2.13, John writes to *"young men, because you have overcome the wicked one."* A young man was one who was spiritually strong. He needed to be aware of the dangers and not be overconfident (1 Cor. 10.12,13).

In 1 John 2.13, John also writes to *"little children, because you have known the Father."* Little children were babes in Christ. This is a different Greek word than what is found in verse 12. Babes in Christ were vulnerable to deception and needed to grow in the faith (Eph. 4.14,15).

John addressed three different groups in different stages of their spiritual development. Each one of them would have their fellowship with God threatened. Each one of them was vulnerable in different ways. To defeat the devil, we need to be aware of who we are and how to approach these spiritual dangers. CLP

## THE GREATNESS OF JESUS

### COLOSSIANS 1:14

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. More than any other book, Colossians emphasizes Jesus.
2. The first chapter of Colossians tells us about the greatness of Jesus. [Read Colossians 1.12-14]
3. To understand His greatness, consider two questions.

#### I. WHAT HAS GOD DONE FOR US?

- A. God has qualified us.
  1. **Colossians 1.12:** *"giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us"* Lit., to make sufficient.
  2. God has qualified us to share to be part of those who share in the inheritance. (Col. 1.12; 1 Pet. 1.3,4)
- B. God has delivered us.
  1. **Colossians 1.13:** *"He has delivered us from the power of darkness"* Lit., rescued..
  2. God has rescued us out of the world and the authority of the devil. (Matt. 28.18; Eph. 5.8; 1 John 1.6)
- C. God has conveyed us.
  1. **Colossians 1.13:** *"and conveyed us into the kingdom"*
  2. God has placed us into the church of *"the Son of His love."* The church belonging to Christ.

#### II. HOW DID GOD DO IT?

- A. God applied the blood of His Son.
  1. **Colossians 1.14:** *"in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins."*
  2. God saved us by sending Jesus. (Eph. 1.7; Rom. 5.9)
- B. God applied the blood of Jesus to redeem us.
  1. Redemption: Literally to purchase away from.
  2. God saved us by purchasing our freedom from our sins. (John 8.34; Rom. 6.17; 1 Pet. 1.18,19)
- C. God applied the blood of Jesus to forgive us.
  1. Forgiveness: (aphasis): To send away.
  2. God saved us by employing the blood of Jesus to send our sins away. (Acts 2.38; 10.43)

**CONCLUSION:** Consider the greatness of Jesus. (Col. 1.15-18).

## Seeking Wisdom from Above

Life often presents us with situations that leave us feeling perplexed, uncertain, or simply at a loss for what to do. We face decisions both large and small – career changes, relationship challenges, financial dilemmas, or even just knowing how to best navigate a difficult conversation. In these moments, where do we turn for guidance? How do we acquire the insight needed to make choices that honor God and lead to true well-being? James 1.5 provides a profound answer: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him."*

This verse reminds us that wisdom is not merely accumulated knowledge or intellectual prowess; it is a gift from God. To *"lack wisdom"* is not a sign of weakness, but a common human experience. The good news is that God desires to impart this wisdom to us. Just as Jesus demonstrated humility in His submission to His Father's will, we too are invited to humble ourselves and acknowledge our need for divine guidance.

How does God give this wisdom? James tells us He gives *"generously and without reproach."* Consider the boundless generosity of our heavenly Father. He doesn't dole out wisdom grudgingly or in limited measure. He pours it out abundantly to those who sincerely ask. Furthermore, He gives *"without reproach."* This means He doesn't scold us for our lack of understanding or criticize our past mistakes. He doesn't demand we earn His wisdom. Instead, He offers it freely, motivated by His perfect love for His children.

To have this wisdom from above is to have the mind of Christ, for Jesus Himself was the embodiment of divine wisdom (1 Cor. 1.24,30). He knew the Father's will and acted accordingly, even when it meant suffering and self-sacrifice. His teachings consistently demonstrated an understanding far beyond human intellect. When we ask for wisdom, we are, in essence, asking God to help us align our thinking, mindset, priorities and perspective with Him (Phil. 2.5).

So, how do we practically apply this concept in our lives? When faced with a challenging situation, our first inclination should not be to rely solely on our own reasoning, consult only human counsel, or become overwhelmed by anxiety. Instead, we are encouraged to go to God in prayer. This isn't a passive request; it's an act of humble dependence, acknowledging that His ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55.9). It's about seeking His perspective, His direction, and His clarity.

Are you facing a decision that seems overwhelming? Do you feel uncertain about your next step? Do not lean on your own understanding, but trust in the wisdom and guidance of God. (Prov. 3.5) CLP