

Understanding the Bible

Why do we need to understand the Bible?

What are some of the things that have happened because of a wrong understanding of the Bible?

If we are to obey the Bible and live the way that God wants us to we need to know what it means. *It is important that we understand the Bible.*

1. Can we understand the Bible?

It is true that anyone can read the Bible. But not everyone can understand the Bible.

Who cannot understand the Bible? (see 1 Corinthians 2:14)

Complete the table to discover who can understand the Bible.

	Who do these verses teach can understand the Bible?
Deuteronomy 6:6-7	
Psalms 1:2	
Psalms 19:7 Psalms 119:130	
1 Corinthians 1:2 Galatians 1:2	
2 Timothy 3:14-17	

Write out 1 Corinthians 2:9-10:

What is needed for these people (we listed in the table above) to understand God's Word?

"Illumination is the process by which God's Holy Spirit enables us to understand His word and apply it to our lives."

"The Word without the illumination of the Holy Spirit remains a closed book." (James Montgomery Boice)

Can we understand the Bible? Give a reason for your answer.

“The clarity of Scripture means that ordinary people are able to read and rightly understand the Bible.”

“The witness of the Church throughout the ages is that ordinary people, who approach it in faith and humility, will be able to understand what the Bible is getting at, even if they meet with particular points of difficulty here and there.”

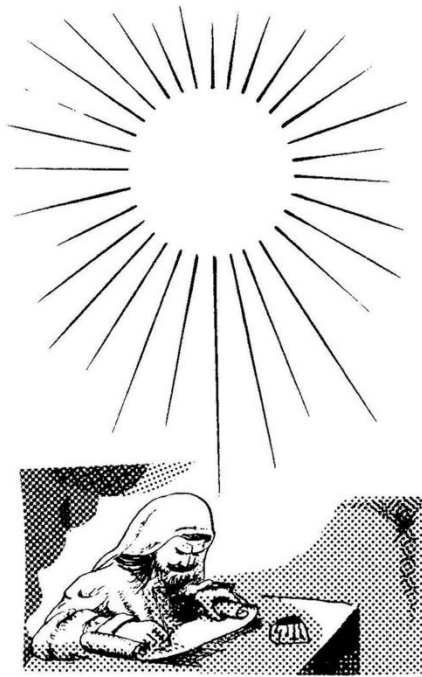
If the Bible is clear, why are there so many disagreements between Christians?

2. The process by which we understand the Bible



REVELATION:—

The act whereby God first taught men the truths He wanted them to know.



INSPIRATION:—

The act of God whereby the first writing of revealed truth was done without fault.



ILLUMINATION:—

The act of God whereby believers are convinced of the meaning of the Bible record of God's truth.

3. How do we understand the Bible?

We've already seen that in order to understand the Bible we need God's help. We need the Holy Spirit to help us to understand the Bible and believe that it's true.

What must we do every time we read the Bible? _____

Write out Psalm 119:18:

Where else can we find help with understanding the Bible?

The best thing to do is to read the Bible and think hard about what you've read. As you do this ask God to help you to know what it means and to obey what it says. However, if you want a good book to read which will give you some tools to help you understand the Bible I recommend *'Dig Deeper'* by Nigel Beynon and Andrew Sach.

Doctrine

The foundations of the Christian faith

