

# How To Read, Study, and Understand The Bible

# About the Bible

- ✓ Why and how the Bible is so necessary for believers
- ✓ How and why the Bible is:  
Dangerous, Divisive, and  
Difficult
- ✓ Challenges to reading and interpreting the Bible

# The (Mis)Use of the Bible

- Justification of slavery and white supremacy
- Support of capital punishment
- Restrict the role of women
  - Support and oppose abortion
- Justify genocide/ wars/ intolerance/ discrimination/ violence against a group of people
- Assign guilt for disease
- Predict the signs/ end of the world

How the Bible is used should be governed by the purpose(s) for which we have the Bible?

What is the Bible and what is its  
purpose?

# What is the testimony of Scripture?

- ✓ Jn 15:3, 17:17; Eph 5:26
  - ✓ Deut 8:3; I Peter 2:2
    - ✓ Ps 119:105
      - ✓ Heb 4:12
  - ✓ Jn 20:31; I Jn 5:13
    - ✓ Rom 15:4
- ✓ Isaiah 40:8; Mt 5:18

What do we believe about the Bible? What is the orthodox Baptist belief about Scripture?  
What does ASBC believe about the Bible?

# The London Baptist Confession 1689

The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, and obeyed, dependeth not upon the testimony of any man, or church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the author thereof: and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God

The Holy Scripture is the only *sufficient, certain, and infallible* rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience, although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men inexcusable; yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God and His will which is necessary for salvation.

God reveals His inexcusable  
goodness, wisdom and power,  
through creation and human  
experience but those means are not  
sufficient to lead to salvation

Therefore it pleased the Lord at sundry times and in divers manners to reveal himself, and to declare his will unto his church; and afterward for better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan, and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing; which maketh the Holy Scriptures to be most necessary

# The Cambridge Declaration 1996

We reaffirm the inerrant Scripture to be the sole source of written divine revelation, which alone can bind the conscience. The Bible alone teaches all this is necessary for our salvation from sin and is the standard by which all Christian behavior must be measured. We deny that any creed, council or individual may bind a Christian's conscience, that the Holy Spirit speaks independently of or contrary to what is set forth in the Bible, or that a personal spiritual experience can ever be a vehicle of revelation

# *Sola Scriptura*

The Bible claims to be the sole sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of faith for the Christian church

James White

*A rule of faith* is that which  
governs what we believe and why

# The Bible is

- Sufficient in its scope and matter
- Certain in its nature and content
  - Infallible in its authority

All things in Scripture are not clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation are so clearly propounded, and opened in some place of scripture or another, that all may attain a sufficient understanding of them. All things necessary for God's glory, humanity's salvation, and life of faith are found in Scripture and no other source

What Scripture is sufficient for  
must be kept clearly in mind when  
reading and studying its teachings –  
it is a rule of faith not an  
encyclopedia

# Next Week

II Timothy 3:14-17

II Peter 1:20, 21