

Formed by the Word: The Clarity of Scripture

In this study we wrap up our series, *Formed by the Word*. So far we've looked at three attributes of Scripture: Authority (it is final); Necessity (it is needed); and Sufficiency (it is enough). In this study we look at the Clarity of Scripture (it is understandable). In other words, ***God has spoken in the Scriptures through human authors in ways that are understandable***. God is an able and effective communicator and has done so in order that we can understand enough of His Word that we might know what we need to know to be fruitful and obedient Christians.

Opening Discussion: What would happen if you didn't believe you could understand the Scriptures?

Read Deut. 30:11-14

1. As Moses is preparing the children of Israel to enter the Promised Land, he is reminding them of their covenant obligations. After doing so, he makes this statement about the nature of God's commandments. How does he describe them? How do you see the clarity of Scripture articulated here?

Read Psalm 119:98-99, 105, 130

2. How do these verses illustrate the clarity of Scripture?
3. Does the clarity of Scripture mean that every passage is easy to understand? Explain.
4. In our last study on the sufficiency of Scripture we looked at Psalm 1 and saw that the blessed person meditates on God's word day and night. How does an activity like meditation on God's word relate its clarity?

Read Matt. 12:1-7; James 1:22-25

5. Steve made the point that the clarity of Scripture makes us accountable to believe and obey what God has communicated. How do we see this illustrated in these passages?

Steve said:

Here's my question for each of us: Do you live your life with the conviction that because Scripture is our authority and because Scripture is clear, you are accountable to believe and obey all that is taught in Scripture? If you and I really believe that, we will be passionate - Psalm 119 passionate - about being formed by the Word. And so the clarity of Scripture should give us a sense of confidence as well as a sense of accountability.

6. What kinds of things would demonstrate that one lives with this conviction?
7. Do you live your life with the conviction that you are accountable to believe and obey all that is taught in Scripture? Explain.

Steve said:

Just like many people find Scripture to be bewildering, many people find American football bewildering. There are over 800 rules that apply to different players in different situations. So how do you get to the place where you understand football intuitively (and therefore enjoy it)? Watch hundreds or thousands of football games. Don't sit alone reading the NFL rulebook. Watch hundreds of games with others, talk about it with others, ask questions. If you invest a few thousand hours over many years, you will understand football. And if you want to be formed by the Word, for as many years as God gives you on earth, invest hundreds and thousands of hours reading the Scriptures, praying Psalm 119, thinking about the Scriptures, hearing the Word taught, talking with other people about the Scriptures, and doing the Scriptures. You won't know God exhaustively, but you will know him accurately. And God will form you into the image of his Son Jesus Christ.

8. How does this illustration help you understand the process of truly understanding and obeying God's word?
9. What is your main take away from this study?