

*The Role of Scripture
in
Life and Ministry*

Table of Contents

Beliefs About the Bible	2
The Origin of the Bible	2
The Nature of the Bible	2
The Source of the Bible.....	3
The Authority of the Bible	3
The Two Testaments of the Bible.....	4
The Bible, a Ministry Resource	4
Current Use of the Bible in Life and Ministry	5
Devotionally	5
Exegetically.....	8
Evangelically	9
Communally	9
Christianly or Ethically.....	10
Evangelistically	11
Missionally	11
Traditionally or Historically	12
Pastorally.....	12

THE ROLE OF SCRIPTURE

IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF A BELIEVER

The Origin of the Bible

The Bible, meaning many books originated with God. The Holy Spirit, (Holy Ghost) is the primary author of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21). God the Holy Spirit inspired and guided the authors of the Bible. They “spoke from God as they were carried along”. The Holy Scriptures proceeded from God. It started in eternity past before the foundations of the world.

The Nature of the Bible

The Bible is a small library that consists of sixty-six (66) books written over a period of approximately one thousand six hundred (1 600) years by forty (40) authors (Woodworth and Duncan 201; Maphori 27) who were enabled and inspired by God to effectively write on a single theme, the redemption of humans and the role God played in this redemptive act with specific reference to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The Spirit guided the authors so that their words or message were his words or message. The Spirit did not overrule their individuality and vocabularies, but he guaranteed that their message was his message (Smith 16).

The Source of the Bible

The Holy Spirit prompted the original thoughts in the mind of the writers (Amos 3:8). Accordingly, he then guided their choice of words to express his thoughts (Exod. 4:12, 15); and, lastly, he brightens the mind of the reader of such words in a way that the reader potentially depending on the soundness of their exegetical and hermeneutical (explanation and interpretation) work may comprehend the same range of truth as was originally in the mind of the writer (1 Cor. 2:12; Eph. 1:17–18). Thus, both thought, and language are revelatory and inspired” (adapted from *Here We Stand*, the Assemblies of God 7).

The Bible is referred to as the Holy Bible, the Scriptures, or the Word of God. The produce or creation of an eternal, all-present, all-powerful, all-knowing, and almighty God. The term holy means “something we respect and revere because it belongs to God” who reveals himself as holy. Each of the sixty-six books of the Bible is holy because God who is holy inspired it. Although, the researcher acknowledges that God reveals himself through creation, nature, and conscience he considers the Bible (the canon) as God’s special written revelation to humankind “the locus” of revelation.

The Authority of the Bible

The Bible inspires (2 Tim 3:16), It is truth (2 Pet 1:18-20). The Bible is thus much more than human literature. It is the very Words of God.

The Two Testaments of the Bible

The Bible consists of two testaments. They are referred to as the Old and New Testaments. The word testament means treaty, pact, or covenant” Essentially, the two testaments reveal the covenants God made with humankind. The Old Testament contains the covenant God made with Israel, the nation he chose to reveal his truths to and entrusted to teach his covenant to all of humankind. The Old Testament was a temporary pact pointing to the New Testament or New Covenant, a pact God made in eternity (Eph 1:4) with humans based on the life, ministry, death, resurrection, ascension, and session of Jesus.

The Bible, a Ministry Resource

For those in pursuit of an authentic Christian life and ministry, the Bible serves as the foundation of faith, life, and ministry practice. Furthermore, the Bible is the Christian’s spiritual source and serves as the church’s rule of faith.

“The Bible is the Word of God, supernatural in origin, eternal in duration, inexpressible in value, infinite in scope, infallible in authority, universal in interest, personal in application, inspired in totality! Read it through, write it down, pray it in, work it out, and then pass it on. Truly it is the Word of God. It brings into man the personality of God; it changes man until he becomes the epistle of God. It transforms his mind, changes his character, takes him on from grace to grace, and gives him an inheritance in the Spirit. God comes in, dwells in, walks in, talks through, and sups with him” (Wigglesworth 27).

The Bible for Devotion

The Bible serves as the researcher’s spiritual food. His spiritual health depends on his spiritual diet. The Bible teaches that humans will not live on bread alone but by every word spoken by God (Matt 4:4). For this reason, he cultivates a hunger for God’s Word in order not to be malnourished.,

The Devotional Method of Bible Study involves taking a passage of the Bible, large or small, and prayerfully meditate on it until the Holy Spirit shows you a way to apply its truth to your own life in a way that is personal, practical, possible, and provable. The goal is for the follower of Christ, the researcher to take the Word of God seriously and “do what it says” (James 1

Scripture promises many benefits when feasting on the Word. The below table illustrates these benefits (Adapted from Smith 104).

Scripture	Promised Benefits
Joshua 1:8	we will be prosperous and successful
Psalm 19:7-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. it gives life to the soulb. it gives a great rewardc. it gives light to the eyesd. it gives joy to the hearte. it gives life to the soulf. it gives wisdom to the simple
Proverbs 6:20-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. when you walk, it will guide youb. when you sleep, it will watch over youc. when you awake, it will speak to you
John 17:17	The Word will sanctify us.
Ephesians 5:26	it makes us holy and cleanses us

The purpose of devotional reading is not to master the Scriptures but to meet one's Savior, Sanctifier and Spirit-baptizer.

Community Benefits

We read Scripture to live faithfully before God, by responsibly interpreting and applying the text as a faith community. We read Scripture as a community of faith to form, challenge, and correct our reading, interpretation, and application thereof. Their proposal on how the community of faith ought to read scripture is not new. The Hebrew community used this method of bible study.

Evangelistically

The Bible is the resource utilized to communicate the Gospel. The Bible teaches that “all have sinned” and that all humankind is guilty of sin before God. Theologically, we refer to humankind as being guilty through original and personal sin. The human predicament. Humankind is thus subject to a universal problem, which is sin but there is hope through Christ Jesus who provide us with a universal solution through his life, ministry, death, and resurrection. gospel.

Missionally

The church is responsible for taking the gospel to the ends of the earth or the nations of the world.

Traditionally or Historically

In the researcher's view and practice, we read the text alongside those who went before us. We know there is a tradition of faithfully reading Scripture. Although not all readings are equal.

We learn as much from the reading tradition of our ancestors. Most of the traditional- historical readings are faithful to orthodox readings of the Scriptures.

Pastorally

In the pastoral setting, the church reads Scripture in different spaces. With those who are followers of Christ, unbelievers, backsliders, oppressed, and marginalized. The church reads Scripture in Sunday gatherings, connect (small) groups, in the local Bible school, and whenever there is a gathering of some sort. In all these settings and spaces, the researcher leads the church to read as a community of faith. As we engage the local church community of faith and we engage each other in a collective or corporate setting with biblical content, we take into consideration our context, convictions, and commitments with the biblical text as our primary and most authoritative source.