

# God Wrote a Book: The Bible is Clear

## Opening Discussion

1. What was your favorite subject in school? Why?
2. What subject did you struggle with the most? What was it so hard?
3. What's the difference in understanding the message of the Bible and understanding a subject at school?

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. **Psalm 19:7**

“The clarity of Scripture means that the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who will read it seeking God’s help and being willing to follow it.” **Wayne Grudem**

### 1. The Bible is clear, so it can be understood.

- The message of the Bible is not entrusted to scholars.
- It is entrusted to all the saints.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus. **Ephesians 1:1**

- The message of the Bible is to be taught to children.

These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your children. **Deuteronomy 6:4**

From childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **2 Timothy 3:15**

### 2. The Bible is clear, but some people don't understand it.

- Some don't understand because they can't see the truth.

If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ. **2 Corinthians 3:3-4**

- Some don't understand it because they won't accept the truth.

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

**1 Corinthians 1:14**

- Some don't understand because they suppress the truth.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

**Romans 1:18**

- Some don't understand because their hearts are hardened to the truth.

O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

**Luke 24:25**

### **3. The Bible is clear, but there are different interpretations.**

- Incorrect interpretations arise from bad interpretive methods.
- Incorrect interpretations arise from speaking to something Scripture does not address.
- Incorrect interpretations arise from bias.
- Incorrect interpretations arise from poor theology.

### **4. The Bible is clear, and we need to grow in our understanding.**

- The clarity of the Scripture does not mean we will understand everything about the Bible.
- We must be committed to personal study of the Scriptures.

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.

**Joshua 1:8**

- We need teachers and scholars to help the church.

He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

**Ephesians 4:11-12**

Though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity . . . And this we will do if God permits.

**Hebrews 5:12-6:3**

### **The perspicuity of Scripture:**

Scripture affirms that it is able to be understood but (1) not all at once, (2) not without effort, (3) not without ordinary means, (4) not without the reader's willingness to obey it, (5) not without the help of the Holy Spirit, (6) not without human misunderstanding, and (7) never completely. **Wayne Grudem**

The Bible is "shallow enough for a child not to drown, yet deep enough for an elephant to swim." **Augustine**

### **For Further Study:**

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- Chapter 6 Recording, Wayne Grudem, "Systematic Theology (MP3 Lecture Series) | Monergism," accessed November 15, 2023, <https://www.monergism.com/systematic-theology-mp3-lecture-series>;
  - Wayne Grudem, "The Perspicuity of Scripture," The Gospel Coalition, accessed November 15, 2023, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/themelios/article/the-perspicuity-of-scripture/>.