

Making the Most of God's Resources for Your Growth

Week 3: Bible Study

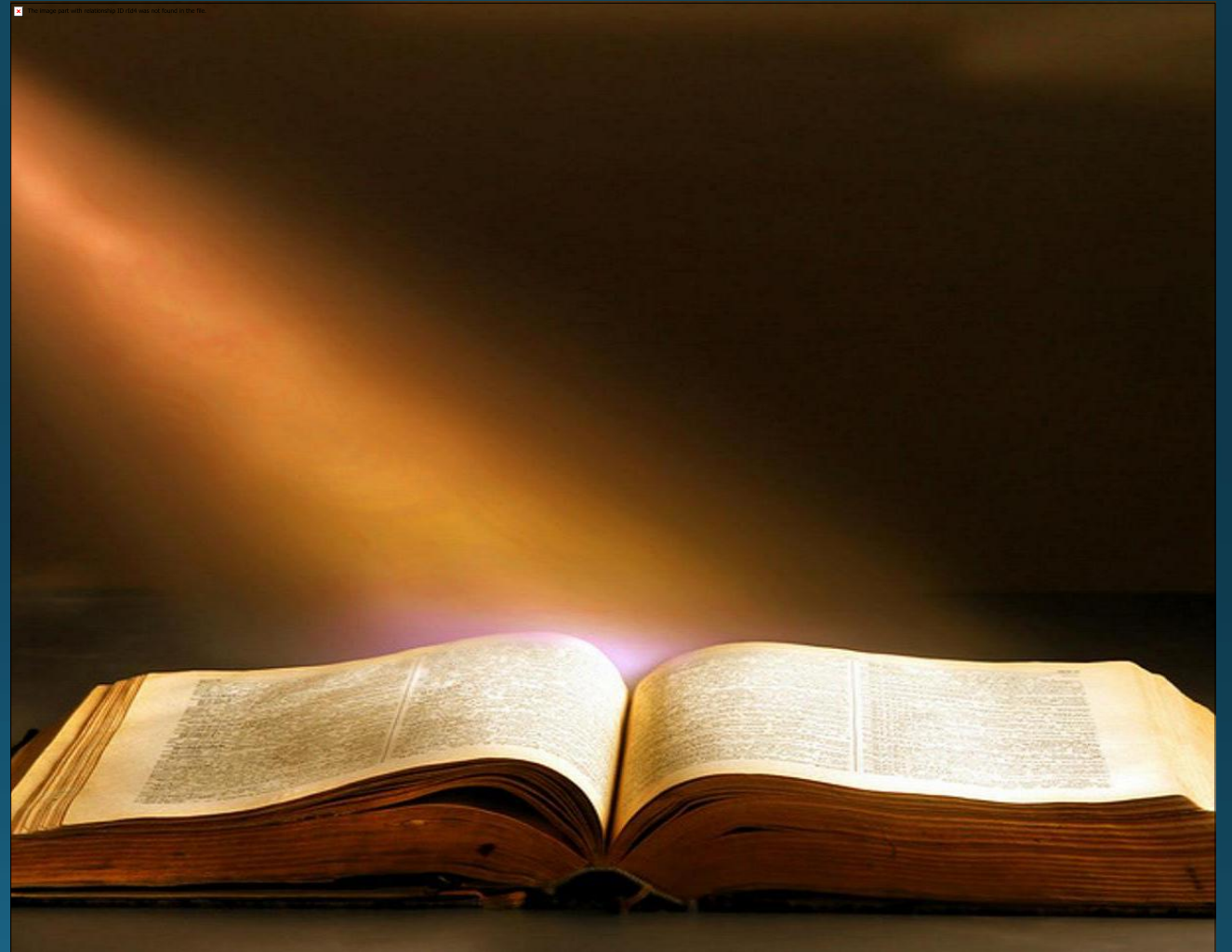
2 Timothy 3:14-17

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

“The Bible’s authority within the church is in danger whenever we don’t allow it to serve its intended role, whether through poor interpretation or simply through lack of use. Believers tend not to use Scripture if they think that its teaching either lacks relevance for today’s world or it’s simply too hard to understand. The result is the biblical illiteracy of the church. And then believers invariably turn to other authorities than the Bible, often secular, as the guide for how to live.”

*Adapted from Robert W. Wall, "Canonical Context and Canonical Conversations" in J.B. Green & M. Turner (eds), *Between Two Horizons: Spanning NT Studies & Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000); 167*



IT MATTERS WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS!

Who determines the meaning of a text?

- The reader?
- The text itself?
- The Author?
 - *Author of the Bible: God/Man*

In a nutshell,

the task of our Bible reading is to determine the author's meaning, and then respond appropriately.

WHAT A RIP-OFF! THEY SAY IF YOU CONNECT THESE DOTS YOU GET A PICTURE, BUT LOOK! I DID IT AND IT'S JUST A BIG MESS!



I THINK YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO CONNECT THEM IN THE ORDER THAT THEY'RE NUMBERED.



OH.



EVERYTHING'S GOTTA HAVE RULES, RULES, RULES!



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How do I study the Bible?

- Know the types
 - Narrative (Genesis 12, 1 Samuel, John, Acts, etc.)
 - *"What do we learn about God through this story?"*
 - Poetry (Psalms, Proverbs, Exodus 15:1-18, Revelation 18:2-8, etc.)
 - *"What figures of speech is the author using? How is the author using language to invoke my emotions and imagination?"*
 - Discourse (Deuteronomy 29-30, Acts 7, Romans, 1 Peter, etc.)
 - *"How is the author systematically presenting an idea or a set of ideas?"*
- Context
 - *"Where am I?"*
- See the big picture
 - *"How does this chapter fit in with the rest of the book?"*

How do I respond to the Bible?

- What *TRUTHS* is the author sharing?

PSALM 23

Shared Truths

- God leads us and restores us
- God provides for his people
- We should be righteous, to glorify God
- We should be holy as God is Holy
- God provides an environment for our peace
- We can rely on God
- God has our benefit in mind as he leads us
- There is security in following God
- God is present through our times of difficulty
- We are chosen to be with God
- We are important to God
- God provides for us,
- God is not affected by his enemies

How do I respond to the Bible?

- What *TRUTHS* is the author sharing?
- What's the *MAIN IDEA*?

PSALM 23

Main Idea

- God's love is all powerful, and totally available to us
- God provides our salvation, as we trust him
- God is a part of every aspect of our life

How do I respond to the Bible?

- What *TRUTHS* is the author sharing?
- What's the *MAIN IDEA*?
 - Psalm 23: *Even in the most difficult circumstances, God provides rest, safety and hope*
- How does God intend for me to *RESPOND* to this text?
 - *How does God intend this passage to affect my:*
 - *Behaviors?*
 - *Thinking patterns?*
 - *Imagination?*
 - *Emotions?*

How do I respond to the Bible?

We should worship God!

...but how?...

- Sing
- Clap
- Pray
- Dance
- Eat
- Give
- Serve
- Rest
- Etc.

Shared Truth of Psalm 23: *God is trustworthy*

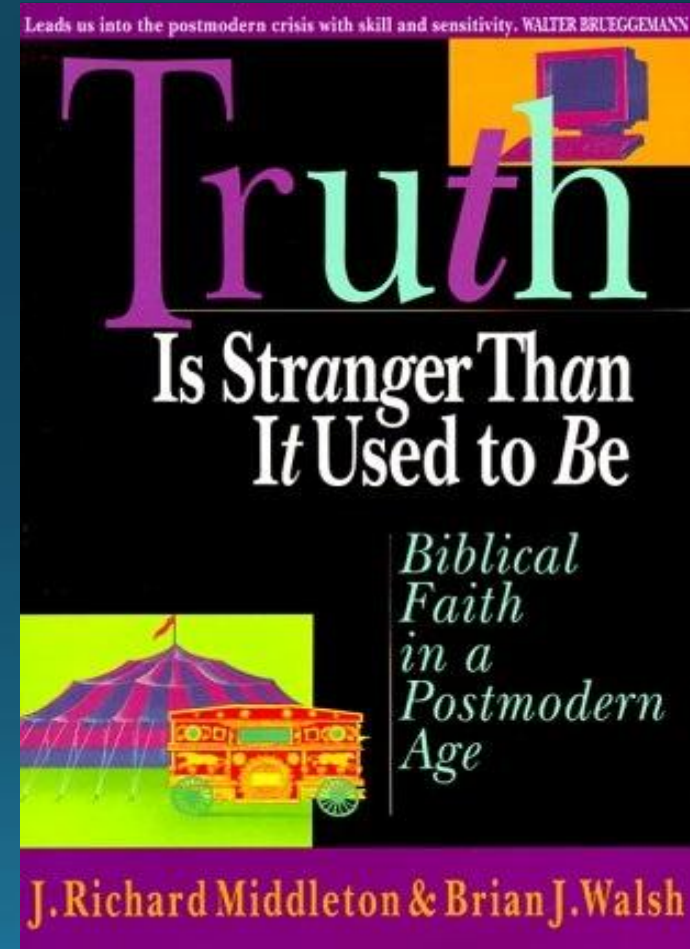
- Over the next week, I will identify at least 10 scriptural examples that display God's provision for his people. At the end of the week, I will pray with these verses in mind, asking God to change my perspective of him and to make me more trusting of him.
- Tonight I will write down 10 examples of God delivering me through difficulty in the past year. I will then spend 15 minutes in prayer thanking him.
- Every day for the next week, I will read Psalm 23 before I go into work. During my lunch break, I will identify 3 ways I failed to trust God during the shift. I will confess my lack of trust to God, repent, and pray for the strength to trust God with the rest of my shift.

BAD EXAMPLES

- I need to trust God more.
- Whenever I don't trust God, I should work on trusting him.
- I will stop being ungrateful.
- You need to experience God's peace.

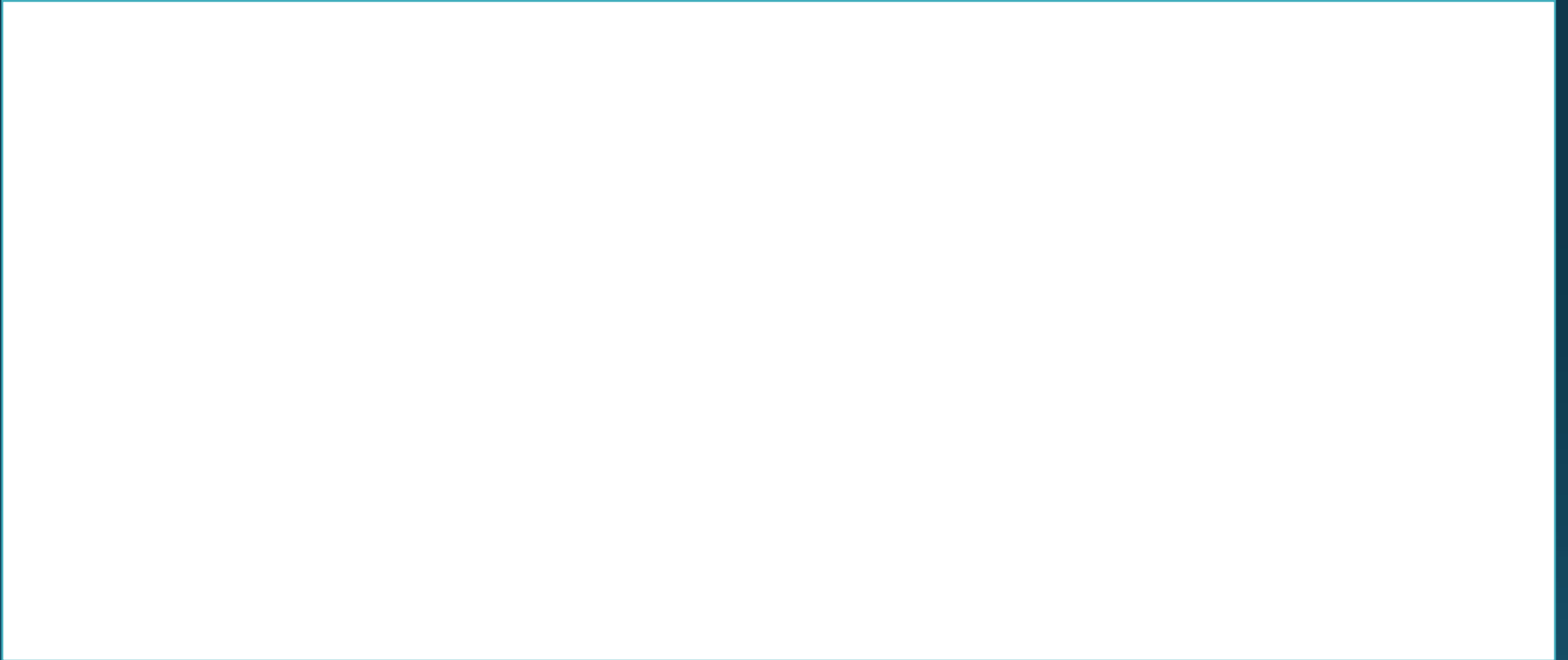
It is impossible to live faithfully to the gospel in any timeless, abstract fashion. Faithful Christian living . . . Always requires discerning and serious struggling with our particular cultural context.

J. Richard Middleton & Brian J. Walsh, *Truth Is Stranger Than It Used To Be: Biblical Faith in a Postmodern Age* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1995): 81



PSALM 23

Responses



Recommended reading:

- Lubeck, Ray. *Read the Bible for a Change: Understanding and Responding to God's Word*. Reprint ed. Wipf & Stock Pub, 2009. ISBN 1608991539
- Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth: Fourth Edition*. 4 ed. MI: Zondervan, 2014. ISBN 0310517826