

**Lesson One:**

# **“The Relevance of the Bible in Today’s World”**

**Lesson 1 of the series:**

**The Word Unshaken: Defending the Bible in a Shifting World**

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**Outline for Lesson 1: "The Relevance of the Bible in Today’s World"**

**Series Theme Statement**

- Core Principle: "We must be able to back up everything we teach and preach with the Bible, with what the Bible actually says: not what we read into it, not what we think is inferred, and not just go by what we have always heard it taught, or by what we think is good and conservative sounding. No, we must be able to back up everything with a chapter and verse."
- Focus: Emphasizes reliance on Scripture's explicit text over personal bias, tradition, or subjective interpretation.

**Definition of Eisegesis**

- Explanation: "Eisegesis is the act of reading one's own ideas, biases, or preconceived beliefs into a biblical text, rather than drawing out the text's original meaning as intended by the author."
- Contrast with Exegesis: "Unlike exegesis, which seeks to faithfully interpret Scripture based on its context, language, and historical setting,

eisegesis imposes meaning onto the text, often distorting the truth of God's Word."

- Critique: "Eisegesis is a terrible blight on the church today, on the fundamental church today. We must weed this out of our churches. We must stand against this. We must reject this wholeheartedly."

## **Lesson Objective**

- Goal: "To establish that the Bible, though ancient in origin, is eternally relevant because it is the inspired, inerrant, and authoritative Word of God. The believer must recognize that Scripture is sufficient for all matters of life, godliness, and truth."

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### **I. Introduction**

- Opening Question: "Have you ever looked at the Bible sitting on your nightstand, or glowing from an app on your phone, and wondered—How does this fit into the world around me today?"
- Context of Modernity: Highlights the rapid pace of technological and cultural change (e.g., AI, social media, space travel, quantum physics) contrasted with the Bible's unchanging nature.
- Common Objections:
  - "The Bible was written for a different time."
  - "It's just a collection of myths."
  - "It's too narrow-minded for today's issues."
  - "You can't seriously think a book that old is still relevant, right?"

- Central Tension: "What if the age of the Bible is actually its strength? What if the reason it is still standing is because it is not bound to cultural tides—instead, it is anchored to eternal truth?"
- Analogy: The Bible as a rock amidst shifting sand and crashing waves.
  - Key Quote: "Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." – Psalm 119:89
- Relevance to Today: Addresses rising depression, anxiety, and disorientation due to a lack of solid truth.
- KJV Emphasis: "Let me tell you that we do have something – something settled, something that does not get revised every few years and that is the King James Version of the Bible. It has stayed virtually the same for most of its over 400-year history."
- Series Invitation: Invites those questioning Scripture's relevance, treating it as optional, or seeking stability to engage with the lesson.
- Core Assertion: "The Bible does not just tell us what was true. It tells us what is true."
  - Supporting Quote: "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." – John 6:63
- Preview of Lesson: Promises to explore Scripture's divine origin, guidance, power, and permanence.
  - Key Quote: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." – Matthew 24:35

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## II. The Divine Origin of Scripture

- Foundational Text: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in

righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." – 2 Timothy 3:16–17

- Definition of Inspiration:
  - Greek term theopneustos (Θεόπνευστος) = "God-breathed."
  - Not merely inspiring, but divinely originated.
  - Supporting Quote: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." – Matthew 4:4
- Doctrinal Emphasis: Plenary verbal inspiration—every word from God, not just concepts.
  - Quote from George S. Bishop: "Verbal and direct inspiration is, therefore, the 'Thermopylae' of Biblical and Scriptural faith. No breath, no syllable; no syllable, no word; no word, no Book; no Book, no religion."
- Source of Scripture: God Himself, not tradition, human genius, or legend.
  - Supporting Text: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." – 2 Peter 1:20–21
- Doctrinal Application: Scripture's profitability in four areas:
  1. Doctrine: Establishes what is right.
  2. Reproof: Confronts what is not right.
  3. Correction: Shows how to get right.
  4. Instruction in Righteousness: Trains how to stay right.

- Key Quote: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." – John 17:17
- Goal of Scripture: Spiritual maturity and equipping.
  - Greek terms: artios (ἀρτιος) = complete; exērtismenos (ἐξηρτισμένος) = fully equipped.
- Non-Negotiable Nature: Scripture is authoritative, not subject to revision or compromise.
  - John Owen Quote: "If private revelations agree with Scripture, they are needless, and if they disagree, they are false."
  - Martyn Lloyd-Jones Quote: "The moment you begin to question the authority of the Scriptures, and to sit in judgment upon it, instead of allowing it to sit in judgment upon you, you have abandoned the only ground upon which a true Christian can stand."
  - Preacher's Role: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." – 2 Timothy 4:2

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### **III. The Seriousness of Bible Study & The Role of the Holy Spirit**

- Settled Nature: "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." – Psalm 119:89
- Call to Study: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." – 2 Timothy 2:15
- Big Picture of Scripture:

- Four Persons: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, Satan.
- Three Realms: Heaven, Earth, Hell (Lake of Fire).
- Three People Groups: Jew, Gentile, Church of God (1 Corinthians 10:32).
- How Not to Study: Avoid misinterpreting, misapplying, or taking Scripture out of context.
  - Orderly Approach: "Let all things be done decently and in order." – 1 Corinthians 14:40
- Role of the Holy Spirit:
  - Essential for understanding: "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." – 1 Corinthians 2:10
  - Additional Texts: "But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things." – 1 John 2:20; "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth..." – John 16:13
- No New Revelation: Revelation is complete (2 Timothy 3:16); Holy Spirit illuminates existing truth.
  - Key Quote: "The anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you... and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." – 1 John 2:27
- Application: Let Scripture interpret itself, study diligently, trust the Spirit, reject contradictory "new revelation."

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#### **IV. The Timeless Guidance of Scripture**

- Core Text: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." – Psalm 119:105
- Imagery:
  - Ner (נֶר) = small clay lamp, providing intimate, step-by-step light.
  - Path = a well-worn track, not a self-made trail.
  - Supporting Quote: "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way." – Psalm 37:23
- Practical Guidance: Offers wisdom for marriage, business, temptation, and sorrow.
  - Key Quote: "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." – Psalm 119:130
- Contrast with Worldly Sources: Social media, psychology, etc., lack soul-lighting truth.
  - Warning: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." – Proverbs 14:12
- Challenge: Make Scripture the daily light, not an emergency tool.

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## V. The Enduring Power of the Word

- Core Text: "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." – Hebrews 4:12
- Attributes:
  - Quick: Zōn (ζῶν) = alive, not merely swift.

- Powerful: Energēs (ἐνεργής) = active, dynamic.
- Sharp: Penetrates beyond human reach.
- Discerning: Exposes thoughts and intents.
- Additional Imagery: "Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" – Jeremiah 23:29
- Transformative Power: Wounds to heal, breaks to restore, humbles to exalt.
- Application: Approach with trembling and expectation; it cannot be tamed or avoided without cost.
  - Christ as Word: "And his name is called The Word of God." – Revelation 19:13

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## VI. The Unchanging Nature of Scripture

- Core Text: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." – Matthew 24:35
- Theological Basis: God's immutability (Malachi 3:6) ensures Scripture's permanence.
  - Veracity: God's truthfulness (Titus 1:2).
  - Inerrancy: No error due to divine origin.
  - Key Quote: "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." – Psalm 12:6
- Contrast with Relativism: Modern truth is subjective; Scripture is absolute.

- Supporting Texts: "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever." – Isaiah 40:8; "The scripture cannot be broken." – John 10:35
- Historical Context: Sola Scriptura—Scripture as the ultimate norm.
- Pastoral Anchor: Reliable for all life aspects despite cultural shifts.
  - Key Quote: "Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever." – Psalm 119:160

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## **VII. Conclusion: “It’s Not Just Relevant — It’s Essential”**

- Summary:
  - Divine origin (2 Timothy 3:16).
  - Living and powerful (Hebrews 4:12).
  - Guiding light (Psalm 119:105).
  - Unchanging (Matthew 24:35).
- Call to Action: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." – James 1:22
- Challenge: Open, submit to, and live the Bible.
  - Key Quote: "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." – 1 Peter 2:2
- Final Takeaway:
  - "The Bible is not outdated. It's outlasting."
  - "It doesn't need to be rewritten—it needs to be reread."

- "It's not behind the times—it stands outside of time."
- "And more than anything—it's not just relevant—it's essential!"
- Questions to Ponder:
  - "In what ways have you seen the Bible remain relevant in your own life?"
  - "How would you respond to someone who says the Bible is outdated?"
  - "What are areas in your life that you are tempted to navigate without Scripture?"
  - "What does it mean to live under the authority of a timeless Word?"
- Practical Challenge for the Week:
  - "Read Psalm 119 over the next 7 days. Highlight every verse that describes the value or effect of God's Word."
  - "Journal: How does God's Word speak to your current situation?"
- Memory Verse: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." – Psalm 119:105
- Closing Encouragement:
  - "The Word of God is not waiting for cultural approval. It speaks with divine authority. When you open the Bible, you are not opening a book from the past—you are hearing the voice of the Living God right now."
  - Final Quote: "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." – 1 Peter 2:2