



The importance of truth

John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

If we want to worship God in spirit and truth then it is important to read and study the Bible. There are plenty of examples in the Bible of people who did what was right in their own eyes and how God felt about that. There are numerous religions today who all claim to worship the same God. But do they? There is a warning that in 2 Timothy 4:4 that

"...the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables."

The Bible is our instruction booklet from God. It's not good enough to just sit back and listen to what others tell us it says, we have to find out for ourselves.

We all start out as babes only able to fully understand simple things. But the more we read, meditate and study, the more capable we become of understanding profound concepts.

Hebrews 5:13,14 *"For every one that partaketh of milk is without experience of the word of righteousness; for he is a babe. But solid food is for fullgrown men, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil."*

In this final lesson we hope to show you how interesting Bible study can be. Although it can sometimes be difficult to get settled in and started, once you do it is often hard to stop. The Bible is a wonderful book that you can read over and over again and continually come up with new connections, ideas, guidance, instruction, etc.

What is God's purpose with us?

Why did God create the earth and the human race? To find out you may look up the words "create" or "created" in a concordance. You would come across the verse in Isaiah 45:18,

"For thus saith Jehovah that created the heavens, the God that formed the earth and made it, that established it and created it not a waste, that formed it to be inhabited: I am Jehovah; and there is none else."

So, our first clue is that God created it to be inhabited. You may also come across Revelation 4:11 which says:

"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

This gives us the idea that God's creation gives Him glory and honor and power and that creation was part of His will or purpose. If you look up "glory" in a concordance you may come across Numbers 14:21,

"...but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD..."

Cross references from this verse will take you to Psalm 72:19, Isaiah 6:3, 66;18; Habakkuk 2:14.

Psalm 72:19 *"And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and amen."*

Habakkuk 2:14 *"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."*

From these verses we learn that:

- God created the world to be inhabited
- the inhabitants were created as part of God's purpose, or "will"
- that purpose involves filling the earth with His glory

You may ask, "What does filling the earth with God's glory mean?"

If you look up "glory" in a concordance you will find that the word "glory" in the three references mentioned above comes from the Hebrew word "kabod". You may also notice in the list of references in the concordance:

Exodus 33:18 - "And he (Moses) said, Please, show me Your glory"

Could this reference help in telling what "the glory" is?

If you read Exodus 33:18 to 34:8 you will find:

- God's name, glory and goodness are interchangeable expressions (v 18 - 22).
- God's glory is His character or attributes. His character is merciful, gracious, longsuffering, full of goodness and truth, forgiving but unchanging in His principles.

From this we have learned that it is God's plan to fill the earth with His glory (His character). What a contrast with how things are now!

The Lord's prayer implies that the time when God's glory will fill the earth will be when His kingdom comes.

Matthew 6:10 "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Isaiah speaks of a time when this will be the case:

Isaiah 2:2-4 "Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many peopl shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

God's purpose therefore is to fill the earth with people who bring glory to God by reflecting His character:

Psalm 37:11 "But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."

Isaiah 60:21 "Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified."

It is still obviously a future event, but when the time is ready God will set up His kingdom and it will stand forever.

Daniel 2:44 "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."

Bible Terminology

Some of the terms used in the Bible, or in discussions of it, are not familiar to everyone. Thus this final section will highlight the meaning and significance of some of these words and their biblical context.

ANGEL

- "Messenger," "one who is sent" (usually a messenger from God).

Acts 8:26 "Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, 'Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.'"

APOSTLE

- "Messenger," literally, "one sent."

1 Timothy 2:7 "For which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth."

ATONEMENT

- The primary meaning of the Hebrew nouns and verbs used in the Old Testament for atonement, is "a covering," or "to cover." In the New Testament the Greek words for atonement give the sense "to make reconciliation."

Leviticus 16:34 *"This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make atonement for the children of Israel, for all their sins, once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses."*

BAPTISM

- "Immersion," "submersion in water," "to dip" (as in dyeing).

Romans 6:4 *"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*

BLASPHEMY

- "Railing against God;" evil, irreverent speaking; to limit the God's power in any way.

Matthew 12:31 *"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men."*

CHURCH

- The Biblical concept of the church does not include a literal building! The Greek word translated "church" in the New Testament is *ekklesia* (lit., "called out ones"), which we anglicize as "ecclesia." It refers to a congregation, assembly, or a gathering of people. In a spiritual sense it also refers to the Body of Christ, that is, the community of believers of which Christ is the head (Romans 12:5).

Ephesians 5:29 *"For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church."*

CHRIST

- Greek word for "Anointed"; the Hebrew equivalent is "Messiah".

Mark 14:61 *"Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"*

CIRCUMCISION

- Cutting off the foreskin of Hebrew males as a sign of covenant.

Genesis 17:11 *"And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins; and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you."*

DEVIL

- "Slanderer;" "false accuser."

John 6:70 *"Jesus answered them, 'Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?"*

DISCIPLE

- A "learner," "pupil" or "student."

Luke 6:40 *"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher."*

EXHORT

- "Beseech," "comfort," "entreat."

1 Thessalonians 4:1 *"Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God."*

FAITH

- "Belief" or "trust." The best definition is found in Hebrews:

Hebrews 11:1 *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*

GOSPEL

- Means "good news" or "glad tidings."

Matthew 4:23 *"Now Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people."*

HELL

- "The grave" (as in the NIV) or "a pit." Many modern versions use the word "hell" less, or not at all.

Acts 2:31 *"[David] foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades [hell, that is, the grave], nor did His flesh see corruption."*

HOLY

- "Sacred," "set apart," "separate."

Leviticus 19:2 *"Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them, 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.'"*

HOSANNA

- Hebrew expression meaning "save now."

John 12:13 *"[The multitude] took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: 'Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! The King of Israel.'"*

IMMORTALITY

- "Deathlessness," "not subject to death," "everlasting life."

1 Timothy 6:16 *"Who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man*

has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen."

JESUS

- Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua (Yehoshua or Y'shua), meaning "Yahweh is salvation."

Matthew 1:21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

JUSTIFICATION

- The act of God declaring men and women free from guilt and thus acceptable to Him.

Romans 5:18 "Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life."

THE LORD

- "The LORD" stands in most English versions for the Hebrew Yahweh, the personal name of the one true God. It means "He will [cause to] be," and is defined in the KJV rendering of Exodus 3:14 as "I Am Who I Am", but is more literally and correctly translated: "I Will Be Who I Will Be". "The LORD" is often used in combination with other names and titles, such as "Hosts" (Hebrew *Sabaoth*), which means "armies."

1 Samuel 17:45 "Then David said to the Philistine, 'You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.'"

MEEK

- "Humble," "lowly," "teachable."

Numbers 12:3 "(Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)"

MEDIATOR

- One who intervenes between two parties to restore peace and friendship. One who can lay his hands on both parties.

1 Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus."

MESSIAH

- "Anointed One"; the original Hebrew form of the word translated into Greek as Christ.

Daniel 9:25 "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times."

PARABLE

- A short story designed to teach a spiritual truth or a moral lesson.

Mark 4:33 "And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it."

PASSOVER

- "To pass over." A Jewish festival connected with the final plague and Israel's deliverance from Egypt. At this time the angel of death "passed over" faithful Israelites.

Exodus 12:11 "And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover."

PHARISEE

- The Pharisees were a religious party among the Jews at the time of Christ. The name means "separated." They believed that in addition to the written law there was an oral law to elaborate and explain the written law which they said was given to Moses on Mount Sinai. The first portion of the Talmud, called the Mishna or "second law," contains this oral law. It is a digest of the Jewish traditions and rituals and was in practice esteemed above the written law.

Matthew 23:14 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers."

REPENT

- To be sorry and to turn away from (sin).

Ezekiel 18:30 "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin."

RESURRECTION

- A rising from the dead

Romans 6:5 "For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection."

SADDUCEE

• The Sadducees ("the righteous") were a religious party among the Jews at the time of Christ. They denied that the oral law was a revelation of God to the Israelites, and deemed the written law of Moses (the first five books of the Old Testament) alone to be obligatory on the nation, as the divine authority. They did not believe in the resurrection from the dead.

Acts 23:8 "For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection an no angel nor spirit; but the Phari-sees confess both."

SCRIBE

• A clerk, especially a public servant, secretary, recorder, whose office and influence differed in different time periods. A religious teacher.

Jeremiah 36:32 "Then Jeremiah took another scroll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah, who wrote on it at the instruction of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And besides, there were added to them many similar words."

SIN

• To miss the mark; disobedience of God's commandments.

1 John 3:4 "Whosoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."

SOUL

• Both the Hebrew and Greek words translated as "soul" refer to "that which breathes," "life," or "creature."

Genesis 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being [soul]."

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