

These Things We Believe Study
Mt. Zion Church Bible Study

Taken from

A Remedy for Itching Ears written by

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Lesson 2: The Scriptures and Our True God!



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We Have a Vision to Be Intentionally Learning!

Introduction:

Article 1: (Remixed)

We believe that the Bible is the ultimate source and authority that determines and defines what we believe and practice in our doctrine: it is the standard for how we are to live both personally and collectively in every area of our lives.

Article 2: (Remixed)

We believe that there is only one true God of the universe who is the creator, sustainer, and ruler of all of creation. God's identity is revealed to us in the Godhead, which consists of three distinct persons; the Father, the Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. These three persons operate in perfect harmonious unity to accomplish God's will and purposes in the world.

These, the first two Articles of Faith in our study, set the premise from which we live our lives. Article 1 teaches us that we have a set of guiding directions which are God created, God initiated, God expressed, and helpful for us to live Godly. The scriptures have been described as God's love letter to man. Within the scriptures, we are able to identify God's clear plan for mankind.

Further, we are able to understand from Article 2 that God reveals Himself to mankind in three distinct forms or personalities. God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit form the totality of what we describe as the Godhead. Through our interaction with the totality of God, we are able to have access to everything we need to fulfill the purpose for which we were created.

In this lesson, students will understand the impact of believing God's written word and how that word helps us to understand the person of God.



Main scriptures for lesson

2 Timothy 3: 16-17

Genesis 1: 26

Isaiah 6: 8

I. The Authority of Scripture—The Truth—Article 1

Article 1: (Remixed)

We believe that the Bible is the ultimate source and authority that determines and defines what we believe and practice in our doctrine: it is the standard for how we are to live both personally and collectively in every area of our lives.

Have you ever considered the Bible you carry as God’s written word? Not simply words that are written about God. It is God speaking through letters, words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs. God is speaking to mankind in every word that is written.

Our Belief: 2 Timothy 3: 16-17 “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.”

Upon reading this verse, a reader has to decide which has broad impact. If you accept Article 1, then you are accepting and believing that God wants us to hear from Him through His word. The Bible is that word. You are believing that there is no error in the scriptures and that you as a follower of God can understand God’s thinking by studying His word.

The implication of this belief is that you and I have clear direction for our lives based on an absolute Truth! The reality that we need an absolute standard for truth is obvious in light of today’s attack on absolutes. One need not search far to

identify that truth is under siege. This, however, was expected by God and declared in His word in 2 Timothy 4: 3 (the title of the book we are studying is taken from this verse) where we read:

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but having itching ears, they shall heap to themselves teachers in accordance with their own lusts.

The concept of this verse is that man will create his own truth that aligns with his own lustful desires. Lustful desires are desires that we have to fulfill my personal wants regardless of what God says. In this sense, I create my own truth.

2 TIMOTHY 4: 3

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but having itching ears, they shall heap to themselves teachers in accordance with their own lusts.

Thankfully, God has for us an answer which is found in His word; the Bible. Within the Bible, we can find that God addresses the topic of truth so that we can trust in His plan to give mankind clarity about what we should

do, who we are, how we can find Him, and how we should behave in response to His love for us.

Deep thought...

But what about how I feel? How do your feelings factor into this discussion about The Bible as the standard for understanding God's will for our lives?



ACTIVITY 1: EXAMINE A FEW VERSES ABOUT GOD’S TRUTH

Directions: Assign the following verses to members of the class. Each member or group is to take their verse and jot down their understanding of what the verse means and to give an overall topic for the verse. Example: John 3:16 which talks about how we can be saved through Jesus and that God loves us so much. Overall theme could be named as: God’s salvation plan or God’s love, etc. The teacher then is to lead a discussion regarding what God is teaching us through His word about the Truth.

Verse	Topic	Meaning
Psalms 25:5		
Psalms 119:160		
John 8: 31-32		
3 John 1:4		
John 14:6		
John 16:13		

II. The One True God—The Trinity—Article 2

Article 2: (Remixed)

We believe that there is only one true God of the universe who is the creator, sustainer, and ruler of all of creation. God's identity is revealed to us in the Godhead, which consists of three distinct persons; the Father, the Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. These three persons operate in perfect harmonious unity to accomplish God's will and purposes in the world.

Let us now consider an aspect of God's word that is crucial to our understanding of God. Within the Bible, a clear picture of God's personality emerges. Any casual Bible student has read or heard the concept of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Perhaps you have also heard the term "trinity." Without studying, one might think that Christians have three Gods. Don't laugh. In light of the myriad of thoughts about gods (little g), it is not far fetched that someone would easily be confused about this concept.

Article 2 is intended to help us talk about God in all aspects of His nature. While the word trinity is not in the Bible, we can clearly see that God functions in three aspects. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are not three separate gods. He is one god with three distinct ways of functioning for mankind.

In Genesis 1: 1 we read that the entire aspect of God was present at creation in that the Father speaks and says "Let us make man..." We see that no separation exists between God the Father and God the Son (named Jesus) in John 10: 33 which reads I (Jesus) and the Father are one. We can also read in 1 John 5: 7 that all three aspects or personalities of God are singular, one, the same.



Deep thought...

Why is it important for you to know and be able to articulate to others that we do not serve three gods? How does the match with Exodus 3: 5?

➤ The tragedy of mankind is that we have a Lord who wants us to know Him intimately yet we often neglect the relationship.

How often do you and I slow down and spend time with God? When was the last time you asked the Holy Spirit (God within us) to speak to you and guide you throughout the day? How regularly do you connect with God the son and recognize Him for the work He did for our salvation and for what He does now on our behalf?

We have access to God through His scriptures and He desperately wants us to get to know Him better. A true servant wants to get to know his master so that he or she will be capable of fulfilling the Master-Servant relationship. Further, as we grow closer, we find that we are not simply servants, we are sons and daughters, dear friends, branches, royal priesthood, powerful army, and sheep of the Lord. For this reason, we must continue to study God's word, worship, and pray so that we can grow closer each day to the One True God.

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord we want to know you as Philippians 3: 10 says. Help us to desire a closer walk with you and to understand your word clearly for ourselves. Thank you for your Word which is alive and authoritative. In Jesus name, Amen.



So What?

Why does this matter anyway? Is there really a difference in knowing God versus having a clear understanding of God?