

Conquering the Quiet Time: The Clarity of Scripture

Series: Conquering the Quiet Time #1

South Orlando Baptist Church

Topics: Interpreting the Bible, Teaching Children

January 4, 2015

Text: Deuteronomy 6:4-8

Dr. David Crowe

“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)

“All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation, are so clearly propounded, and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them.” Westminster Confession of Faith (1647).

Knowing therefore the clarity of the Bible, you must

- 1) Take God’s Word into your heart (6)
 - a. We all struggle with sin.
 - b. God’s word addresses every sin.
 - c. Memorization helps to combat sin (Psalm 119:11).

- 2) Teach God’s Word faithfully to your children (7a)
 - a. Children are able to understand the Bible.
 - b. The Bible says that the simple are able to be made wise through the scriptures. (Psalm 19:7; 119:130)
 - c. The simple person is defined as someone who lacks sound judgment, is prone to making mistakes, and who is led easily astray.

- 3) Talk about God’s Word constantly (7b-9)
 - a. We should talk of God’s word inside and outside of the home, morning and night.
 - b. Our homes and lives should be saturated with God’s word.

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Use them for personal or family devotions to further dig into God's word. The following questions are taken from Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology:

1. If the doctrine of the clarity of Scripture is true, why does there seem to be so much disagreement among Christians about the teaching of the Bible? Observing the diversity of interpretations of Scripture, some conclude, "People can make the Bible say anything they want." How do you think Jesus would respond to this statement?
2. What would happen to the church if most believers gave up reading the Bible for themselves and only listened to Bible teachers or read books about the Bible? If you thought that only expert scholars could understand the Bible rightly, what would happen to your personal reading of Scripture? Has this already happened to some extent in your life or in the lives of those you know?
3. Do you think that there are right and wrong interpretations of most or all passages of Scripture? If you thought the Bible was generally unclear, how would your answer change? Will a conviction about the clarity of Scripture affect the care you use when studying a text of Scripture? Will it affect the way you approach Scripture when trying to gain a biblical answer to some difficult doctrinal or moral problem?
4. Church leaders at the time of Martin Luther said they wanted to keep the Bible in Latin to prevent the common people from reading it and then misinterpreting it. Evaluate this argument. Why do you think Martin Luther was so anxious to translate the Bible into German? Why do you think church leaders in previous centuries have persecuted and even killed men—like William Tyndale in England—who were translating the Bible into the language of the people? Why is the task of Bible translation into other languages so important a part of the work of missions?

Proven books that can better help you to teach the Bible to your kids/grandkids:

(Ages 0-9) *The Big Picture Story Bible* by Helm, David. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway, 2010.

(Ages 0-12) *The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd Jones, ZonderKidz, 2007.

(Ages 2-13) *The Child's Story Bible* by Catherine F. Vos, Eerdmans 1983.

(Ages 7-13) *The Action Bible* by Sergio Cariello. David C. Cook publishers, 2010.

(Ages 12-16) *The ESV Student Study Bible*. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway, 2011.