

## The Bible is for you

### You do not need formal training to read the Bible with profit

1. Who was the original audience of every biblical book?
  - a. Not the elite, but everyday people. The Bible is written in plain language. (cf. 1 Thess 1:1: “to the church of the Thessalonians”)
2. God wrote the *whole* Bible for you
  - a. 1 Pet 1:10–12: the OT prophets “were not serving themselves but *you*”
  - b. 1 Cor 10:11: “Now these things ... were written down for *our* instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.”
  - c. Rom 15:4: “For whatever was written in former days was written for *our* instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” (cf. Rom 4:24)
  - d. 1 Cor 14:24: Not just for the learned, but the unlearned (Ps 119:130: “The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.”)
  - e. Col 3:16: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom”
  - f. Ps 119:105: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
3. God gave everything you need to understand the Bible.
  - a. The Spirit of Christ gives understanding:
    - i. 1 Cor 2:12, 16: “Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God ... we have the mind of Christ.”
    - ii. Luke 24:45: “Then [Jesus] opened their minds to understand the Scriptures”
    - iii. Isa 11:2 the Spirit is “the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.”
  - b. Also, ministers help: Eph 4:11–12: “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ”
  - c. Creeds are very helpful for summarizing the core truths that we need to keep focused on (e.g., 1 Cor 15:1–4)
4. Even though some parts are confusing, we keep growing into greater and greater understanding. You don’t have to understand everything to still profit and be encouraged.

### A posture for good Bible reading

1. Humility:
  - a. This is God speaking! (1 Thess 2:13) No cherry-picking.
  - b. Knowing that we are ignorant of so much and we need to be taught.
2. Hunger: Ps 119:97 “Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.”
  - a. In particular, a hunger to see God’s face.
  - b. And a hunger to grow in love of God and love of neighbor.
3. Willingness to repent: (1 Thess 1:9: they turned to God from idols)
  - a. Even asking God: show me my sin (Ps 19:12; 139:24)
4. Dependence: we need for God to give light. Ps 36:9: “For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.”