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# What is the Bible?

## Lesson 1: Speaking of God

[http://www.clearcreekchapel.org/Ministries/Education\\_ABE.htm](http://www.clearcreekchapel.org/Ministries/Education_ABE.htm)

### Christ, the starting point for doctrine

Doctrine is what the whole Bible teaches us about some particular topic.

The reason we study doctrine is that it enables us to teach ourselves and others what the whole Bible says in order that we may know Christ and live Christ-like as His image bearers.

The self-attesting Christ of Scripture is always the starting point and foundation for everything we teach from the scriptures.

It is the Word through which THE WORD speaks to us from heaven.

We cannot understand any fact rightly unless we see it in its proper relation to Christ as our Creator-Redeemer.

### Christ, the Source and Authority of Scripture

Christ has, by His Word and by His Spirit, identified himself with us and thereby, at the same time, told us who and what we are.

It is Christ who, in the Scriptures, gives us the “system” of truth which men must believe.

Jesus has sent His Spirit to dwell in our hearts so that we might believe and therefore understand all things to be what he says they are.

### Christ, the Center of Scripture

Christ is both the subject and the object of all of scripture.

Jesus asks us read the Scriptures in light of his testimony about himself.



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Christ and His Word are the final measure by which all supposed truth is to be gauged.

That which conforms to Christ and His Scriptures is true; that which doesn't conform to Christ and His Scriptures is not true.

## **The Authority of the Bible**

All the words in the Bible are God's words.

To disbelieve or disobey them is to disbelieve or disobey God himself.

Since the Old and New Testament writings are both considered Scripture, it is right to say they are both, in the words of 2 Timothy 3:16, "breathed out by God."

Scripture ultimately gains its authority from itself.

Since God claims that the words of Scripture are his own, then there is ultimately no higher authority one can appeal to for proof of this claim than Scripture itself.

## **The Necessity and Sufficiency of Scripture**

All things necessary to become a Christian, live as a Christian, and grow as a Christian are clearly presented in the Bible.

The Bible is our only source for clear and definite statements about God's will.

"General revelation" about God's existence, character, and moral law is given to all people, and is seen through nature, God's historical works, and an inner sense that God has placed in everyone.

"Special revelation" is God's revelation to specific people.

The inerrancy of scripture means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact.