

The Bible

Basic Theology Training

What is it really?//

How did we get it?//

Why is it important today?//



New Horizons
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pause and Breathe

Before you go further, take a moment. Still your heart. Breathe deeply. This guide is not just an intellectual exercise — it's a chance to encounter God through His Word.

Ask the Holy Spirit to open your mind, soften your heart, and let these truths reshape how you approach Scripture.

Why This Sermon Matters

This Bedrock sermon digs into why the Bible matters — not just as an old religious book, but as the foundation of our faith.

Mike invites us to understand the Bible as:

- ✓ A book,
- ✓ A miracle,
- ✓ And our ultimate authority.

This sermon reminds us that we are not left to figure out life on our own. We have been given the written, preserved, and living Word of God — the Bible — to guide, correct, and anchor us.

Whether you've known the Bible since childhood or are just beginning to explore it, this message calls you back to its central place in your life.

The Bible as a Book

- ✓ 66 books.
- ✓ 39 Old Testament, 27 New Testament.
- ✓ Written across centuries by at least 35 human authors.

Mike reminds us that the Bible is made up of different sections:

- Law (Genesis-Deuteronomy)
- History (Joshua-Esther)
- Wisdom/Poetry (Job-Song of Songs)
- Major Prophets (Isaiah-Daniel)
- Minor Prophets (Hosea-Malachi)
- Gospels (Matthew-John)
- Acts
- Paul's Letters
- General Letters
- Revelation

Reflect:

How familiar are you with these categories?

Where could you spend more time reading or learning?

The Bible as a Miracle

Mike highlights how remarkable it is that we even have this book:

- Oral traditions passed down faithfully.
- Inspired writers moved by the Holy Spirit.
- Fulfilled prophecies (Isaiah 7:14 → Luke 1; Hosea 11:1 → Matthew 2; Psalm 22 → Matthew 27).
- Early church councils (Carthage, 397 AD) prayerfully recognized and preserved the canon.
- Translations made across centuries so every tribe, tongue, and nation can hear God's Word.

Reflect:

Have you ever considered how miraculous it is that you can hold the Bible in your hands today? How might this stir fresh gratitude in you?

The Bible as Our Authority

Mike reminded us of the Church of God (Anderson) statement:

"We are a people of the Book... Scripture is our backstop, the ultimate field of inquiry and judgment, the measure of conduct, faith, and practice."

The Bible:

- ✓ Tells us who God is.
- ✓ Shapes how we live.
- ✓ Stands above all human tradition, culture, and reasoning.

Reflect on these passages:

Psalm 119:105 — "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 — Scripture is "useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives."

Hebrews 4:12 — God's Word is alive and powerful, cutting straight to our hearts.

Reflect:

Where do you need to submit more fully to Scripture's authority?

Are there areas of your life you've kept walled off from God's Word?

Dig Deeper Questions

- 1 How has your view of the Bible changed over time?
- 2 What parts of the Bible do you struggle most to understand or apply?
- 3 How can you practice a more intentional daily or weekly rhythm of Bible reading?
- 4 What's one way you can better rely on Scripture as your final authority in decision-making?
- 5 How does seeing the Bible as a miracle grow your trust in its power and truth?

Recommended Next Steps

- ✓ Commit to reading through Exodus this summer alongside the church.
- ✓ Download a Bible app (like Bible Gateway) to explore translations.
- ✓ If you don't own a Bible, come and receive one from the church.
- ✓ Read 2 Timothy and Psalm 119 this week, asking God to reignite your love for His Word.
- ✓ Explore Church of God (Anderson) resources on the supremacy of Scripture.

Final Thought

Mike closed by reminding us:

"God has already said important things to us — we must follow after that."

You hold in your hands not just an ancient document, but the living, breathing Word of God.

Let this week be a time when you fall in love with Scripture again — and let it shape every part of your life.

Small Group Questions

- Why do we trust the Bible as God's Word?
 -  Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 — How does this passage shape our understanding of Scripture's authority?
- How can we be confident that the Bible is reliable and unchanging?

 Read Isaiah 40:8 — What does this verse tell us about the permanence of God's Word compared to human words?

- What role should the Bible play in shaping our daily decisions and values?

 Read Psalm 119:105 — How can we practically let God's Word be our "lamp" and "light"?

- What challenges or doubts have you faced about the Bible, and how did you (or how can you) address them in faith?
- How can we help each other build habits of reading and applying Scripture regularly?