

# On-Mission Class #1

Christ Proclamation Church; Sunday, September 24, 2017; Steve Thiel

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## I. Welcome

- Prayer
- Goals For Tonight
  1. Walk through the syllabus and talk about schedule, format, and my hopes for the class.
  2. Finalize any logistics that we need to take care of for October.
  3. Teach on the Doctrine of Scripture.
  4. Highlight the books and share why I think you're going to love them.

## II. Syllabus and Schedule

- Syllabus – Goals, Objectives, Requirements, Discussion Topics, and Meeting Dates
- Typical Schedule and Format – Balance of Teaching and Discussion
- Practically Speaking – [What are my hopes for the class?]
  - Hope that you would grow in your doctrinal convictions – [Doctrine]
  - Hope that you would grow in your relationship with the Lord come – [Disciplines]
  - Hope that you would come to the end of the year and say that some of these books were the best books that you read all year, that they profoundly changed your thinking!
  - Hope that you would be meeting with people from inside of this church, outside of this church, to talk about theology and practice, evangelism and discipleship, etc.
  - Hope that you would grow in prioritizing relationships in your life.
  - Hope that you would grow in the gospel being central to the relationships in your life.
  - Hope that you would understand how that all works itself out in the life of the church.
  - Hope that you feel better “*equipped for the work of the ministry*” (Ephesians 4:12).

## III. Logistics

- Classroom – We will typically meet downstairs in the fellowship hall with chairs and tables.
- Childcare – We are happy to help provide H.S. students to help watch kids, but we will expect the parents to cover the cost of the childcare. Typically, the students would make \$20 per night.
- Books – How would you like to take care of the rest of the books? We are happy to purchase the upcoming books at the best quantity discount and then provide them to you.
- List of Participants – Would it be helpful for us to provide a list of folks taking the class?
- [Any other logistical questions?]

## IV. Doctrinal Discussion – The Word of God

### A. Open Discussion Question

- How would you describe the bible? – What would you say about it?
- Why would you say that about the bible? – On what basis, do you make that statement?
- Why is it important that the Bible be the basis for our beliefs?
  - It's God's Word – He created us and He instructs us – we don't instruct ourselves.
  - If we want to go to heaven, we should listen to God and NOT to our own thinking.

### B. The Authority of the Bible

- The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.
- So all the words in Scripture are God's Words – [But how do we know that?]

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- In the Old Testament, we have – *“Thus says the Lord”*
  - When a prophet spoke, it had to come true – **Deuteronomy 18:18-20**
  - **[How about in the N.T.??]** – **2 Timothy 3:16** says, *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and is 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.”*
  - In **John 17:17**, Jesus says, *“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”*
  - **[But how did that work? How is Scripture breathed out by God?]** so there’s different theories on this (dictation theory, etc) – but **2 Peter 1:21** says, *“that NO prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the H.S. spoke from God.”*
    - So there’s a glorious partnership between the word of God and the work of man.
    - Meaning, the Bible is clearly the Word of God – *“all Scripture is God-breathed”*
    - And the Bible is clearly written by men – *“men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God”* – so their writing style, word choice, and personality is in the Bible.
  - **[What about the N.T.??] [How do we know that’s Scripture?]** – The Canon wasn’t nailed down as early as we would have liked. Our first record of the exact list of 27 N.T. books came in a letter written by Athanasius in 367 A.D.
  - **[Peter regarded Paul’s writings as Scripture]** **2 Peter 3:16** *“just as in all Paul’s letters, where he speaks about things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also in the rest of Scripture, to their own destruction.”*
  - **[Application]** **[So what’s the application of all this?]** **[Why does it matter that the Bible is truly God’s Word and therefore authoritative?]** **[How does this affect decisions we make?]**
    - Our convictions need to be grounded on the Bible – How we live **[2 Tim. 3:16]**.
    - So we want to be highly theological – And yet, very humble and teachable – There’s no need to be afraid of any question – let’s search the Scripture and see what it says.
    - It matters on what church we choose to be a part of – where the bible is preached!
    - Read Wayne Grudem – Page 82 – Paragraph.
  - **[Open Discussion Questions]**
    - Will the Bible definitively answer every question that we bring? Why or why not?
    - If you want to persuade someone that the Bible is true, what should they read?
    - Do you ever find yourself believing something NOT because you have external evidence for it but simply because it is written in Scripture?
- C. The Inerrancy of the Bible**
- **Definition** – The inerrancy of the Bible means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does NOT affirm anything that is contrary to fact – Meaning, the Bible always tells the truth, and that is always tells the truth concerning the things that it’s talking about.
  - The Bible doesn’t talk about everything – it’s NOT exhaustive.
  - The Bible is NOT a science book – it uses ordinary language to explain natural phenomenon – so it often speaks about what it’s observing in narratives.
- D. The Clarity of the Bible**
- **Definition** – The clarity of the Bible means it’s written in such a way that its teachings are understandable by all who will read it seeking God’s help and being willing to follow it.
  - Now – Some passages are clearer than others – Some passages are hard to understand.
  - And you always want to utilize the clearer passages of the bible to explain the harder passages of the bible – **“Interpret the cloudy in light of the clear”**

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- The Bible is written in such a way that all things necessary for life and godliness (so becoming a Christian and living as a Christian) are clear.
- [The Bible affirms it's own clarity] It does so all over the Psalms. Psalm 19 and 119 in particular – Psalm 19:7 – *“The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”*
- [One way that we know the Bible is clear is that it commands us to teach it to our children] Deuteronomy 6:6-7 – *“These words, which I am commanding you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”*
- Implying that we are able to understand it and that we are able to teach it to our kids!
- [Jesus expected the disciples and the Pharisees to understand it] Examples would be Nicodemus [John 3] or the disciples on the Road to Emmaus [Luke 24].
- [Open Discussion Questions]
  - If the doctrine of the clarity of Scripture is true, why does there seem to be so much disagreement among Christians about so many things in the Bible?
    - #1 – Not everyone is actually looking at the Bible.
    - #2 – People may be seeking to make the Bible say something that it's not saying.
    - #3 – People may be making mistakes in their interpretation of the Bible.
    - #4 – People may be driven by what the culture says and not what the Bible says.
  - Do you think that there are right and wrong interpretations to most passages?
  - How should we handle those passages and that discussion?

## E. The Necessity of the Bible

- [Definition] – *“The necessity of the Bible means it is necessary for knowing the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God's will; but it is not necessary for knowing that God exists or for knowing something about God's character and moral laws.”*
- [How do we know that?] Romans 1:18-20 *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”*
- [So the Bible is NOT needed for a person to know God exists] [General Revelation]
- Psalm 19:1-2 – *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the word of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.”*
- [The Bible is needed for a person to know and believe the gospel] [Special Revelation]
- Romans 10:17 – *“Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of Christ.”*
- Romans 10:14-15 – *“How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things.”*
- [So the Bible is necessary for salvation] The Bible seems to say that either a person must read the gospel message for themselves or hear it from another person to come to faith.
- There is NO tension here with O.T. believers – they heard the message of the gospel from God Himself or from other patriarchs – Abraham [Galatians 3:8]
- [The Bible is necessary for sanctification] The Bible is necessary to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ – so NOT just salvation, BUT sanctification.

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- 1 Peter 1:22-25 [Salvation] – 1 Peter 2:1-3 [Sanctification]
- Jesus says in Matthew 4:4 (quoting Deuteronomy 8:3) – *“Man shall NOT live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”*
- [Open Discussion Questions]
  - When you’re witnessing to an unbeliever, what is the one thing above all others that you would want them to read? And why?
  - How does the necessity of word impact what we read as believers? Balanced diet?

## F. The Sufficiency of the Bible

- **Definition** – The sufficiency of the Bible means that it contains all the words of God that He intended for his people to have at each stage of redemptive history. The bible now contains all the words needed for salvation and for sanctification.
- 2 Timothy 3:16 says, *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and is 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.”*
- Practical Applications of the Sufficiency of Scripture
  - It reminds us to study the Bible – to try and discover all that God has for us to think (about a particular doctrinal issue) or do (in a particular situation).
  - It reminds us to NOT add anything to Scripture.
  - It reminds us to NOT think about any other writing as of equal authority.
  - It reminds us that NO modern revelation from God is on equal authority.
  - It reminds us that NOTHING is required by God that is NOT in the Bible.
  - It reminds us to be content with what God has given – wait for heaven on the rest.
- **Grudem Quote** – *“The doctrinal matters that have divided evangelical Protestant denominations from one another have almost uniformly been matters on which the Bible places relatively little emphasis, and matters in which our conclusions must be drawn from skillful inference much more than from direct biblical statements.”*
- [Open Discussion Questions]
  - How much emphasis do you place on reading the Bible versus other books?
  - What are some doctrinal questions that you are wondering about?
  - Have you ever wished the Bible would say more on a certain subject?

## G. Overview of Books

- Wayne Grudem – *“Christian Beliefs”* – *“Systematic Theology”*
- Don Whitney – *“Spiritual Disciples for the Christian Life”* – [Read pp. 33-34]
- David Platt – *“Follow Me”* – [Read pp. 1-4, 6-7, 16-17]
- Ed Clowney – *“The Unfolding Mystery”* – [Read pp. 49-51]
- Charles Spurgeon – *“The Soul Winner”* – [Read pp. 10-13]

## V. Closing Comments

- Next Meeting – Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> – 6pm-8pm
- Assigned Reading – Christian Beliefs (ch.2) – Spiritual Disciplines (ch.2)
- Prayer