

Unlocking the Mystery: Introduction to Bible Study

The Bible in the Life of the Christian

Use in Liturgical Worship

Scriptural Foundations of the Liturgy

“Exodus 24:1-8 describes the foundation of Old Testament worship upon which historic worship to the present day will be based. There are five salient points of worship which are present in our corporate worship of today: 1) the meeting was convoked by God; 2) the people were arranged in a structure of responsibility; 3) the meeting was characterized by proclamation of the Word; 4) the people acknowledged their responsibility in the Covenant; and 5) the meeting is climaxed by a dramatic symbol of ratification.”¹

Deuteronomy 12:1-7, Deuteronomy 12:30-31

The *form* of liturgical Christian worship may have *tradition* behind it, but the *power* is based on Scripture, Sacraments, and the Holy Spirit and the form has its roots deep in Scripture as well.

Singing Scripture: Psalms and Hymns

Psalmody

Early canticles: Luke 1:46, Luke 2:14

Hymns: Matthew 26:30, 1 Corinthians 4:26

Scripture Lessons: The Pericopes

The Scripture readings we hear each Sunday are usually from The Lectionary or The Pericopes in the liturgical churches.

Recognizing Scripture in Worship

See a recent service bulletin or an order of service in a hymnal for examples.

The Bible as Daily Bread

Read through the Bible in a year

There are many plans that have been devised to help the Bible reader go through the entire Bible in a year, or some other fixed time.

Website: bible.crosswalk.com/BibleInAYear

The Word as a "Means of Grace"

Matthew 4:3-4, Hebrews 5:12-14

The Word as a Window on Eternity

When we come to the Bible, we find that Truth is a Person. We find that this Person wants to draw us into a loving relationship with Him. So we come to the Bible, not so that we will know ABOUT God, but so that we will KNOW God. To know Him is to love Him. And to love Him is to find meaning, and purpose, and joy, and strength in this life – and a home in the next.

Proverbs 8:17, Romans 16:25-27

The Word as a Treasure to be Shared

¹ Benjamin A. Kolodziej, *Introduction to Christian Worship: a Lutheran Perspective* (curriculum, Lord of Life Lutheran Church – Plano TX.).

“The clearer our understanding of the Word of God, the greater our desire to transmit it to others”²

Psalm 126:6, Matthew 10:8

The Word as a Comfort in Time of Trouble

When you need rest and peace, read Matthew 11:25-30.

When you are worried, read Matthew 6:19-34; Philippians 4:6; 1 Peter 5:6-11

When you are lonely or fearful, read Psalm 23.

When you need peace of mind, read John 14:27; Philippians 4:6-8.

When men fail you, read Psalm 27.

When you grow bitter or critical, read 1 Corinthians 13.

When you have sinned, read Psalm 51; Isaiah 53; 1 John 1.

When you are discouraged, read Psalm 34.

When God seems far away, read Psalm 139.

When in sickness, read Psalm 41.

When you feel sorrowful, read John 14, Hebrews 13:5-6.

When in danger, read Psalm 91.

When you need courage, read Joshua 1:1-9.

When you need spiritual assurance, read Romans 8.

When you forget your blessings, read Psalm 103.

When looking for joy, read Colossians 3.

When you prepare to take a trip, read Psalm 121.

When you admire God's creation, read Psalm 19; 90.

When you set priorities, read Mark 10:17-31.

When you need guidelines for living, read Matthew 5-7; Romans 12.

When you need rules of conduct, read Exodus 20:1-17.

When you need to know God's will for your life, read Proverbs 3:1-6.

When facing a crisis, read Psalm 46.

When experiencing oppression, read Psalm 42.

When moral choices must be made, read Psalm 1.

When you want to follow Jesus Christ, read Matthew 5, 6, and 7.

When you are tempted to do wrong, read Psalm 139.

When you feel weary, read Isaiah 40.

When you feel discouraged, read Luke 3:14, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Galatians 5:25-26, James 1:12.

When you are angry, read Luke 6:27-38; 1 Corinthians 13.

When you are tempted to lose faith, read Acts 17:22-31; 1 John 4:11-16.

When you are facing death, read John 3, 11, 14, 17, 20; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 4, 5; Revelation 7, 21, 22.

² John B. Job, *How to Study the Bible* (Downers Grove IL: InterVarsity Press, 1972), pp 109-110.

Influence on our language – Scripture that you already know!

Common expressions from the Bible

- “Handwriting on the wall” Daniel 5:5-7
- “Written in stone” Exodus 24:12; Exodus 34:1
- “Apple of His eye” Deuteronomy 32:10; Psalm 17:8; Proverbs 7:2; Lamentations 2:18; Zechariah 2:8
- “Taking your life in your hands” Judges 12:3
- “Escaped by the skin of our teeth” Job 19:20
- “Like mother, like daughter” Ezekiel 16:44
- “No rest for the wicked” Psalm 95:10-11; Rev 14:11
- “A man after my own heart” 1 Sam 13:14
- “The signs of the times” Matthew 16:3; 1Chron 12:32
- “In the twinkling of an eye” 1 Corinthians 15:52
- “A labor of love” 1 Thessalonians 1:3
- “Salt of the earth” Matthew 5:13
- “Eat, drink and be merry” Ecclesiastes 8:15
- “At his wit’s end” Psalm 139:9
- “His knees were knocking” Daniel 5:6
- “Turn swords into plowshares” Isaiah 2:4
- “of the making of many books there is no end” Ecclesiastes 12:12
- “who cannot tell their right hand from their left” [Jonah 4:11](#)
- “David and Goliath” 1 Samuel 17

Common misquotes or misuse

- “Money is the root of all evil” 1 Timothy 6:10
- “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” 1 Thessalonians 5:22
- “God works all things together for good.” Romans 8:28
- “the Lion and the Lamb” Isaiah 11:6
- “The Lord helps those who help themselves.” Hezekiah 3:3?? (Not in the Bible)

Arts

Sculptors, painters and composers have dedicated many works to biblical themes.

Literature

Dante and Chaucer, Milton’s *Paradise Lost*, Browning’s *Saul* and *Samson Agonistes*
William Blake, Tennyson, Matthew Arnold, Emerson, Whittier, Shakespeare
Abraham Lincoln - Mark 3:25
The Grapes of Wrath, *The Little Foxes*, *The Prince of Egypt*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Mark of the Beast*, *Apocalypse Now*, *Pale Horse – Pale Rider*, *Joshua Son of None*, *East of Eden*, *J.B.*, *David and Bathsheba*, *Giants in the Earth*, *Ten Commandments*, *Greatest Story ever Told*, *Jesus Christ – Superstar*, *Godspell*.
Left Behind series (theologically unsound) - Luke 17:32-36, 1 Corinthians 15, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, Revelation

Politics

Leviticus 25:10