



## Scripture Alone: Clarity Part 2

Lesson Nine

### Why Is Scripture Alone Uniquely Necessary?

**CLARITY: The Bible Is God Speaking CLEARLY to be Understood and Obeyed.**

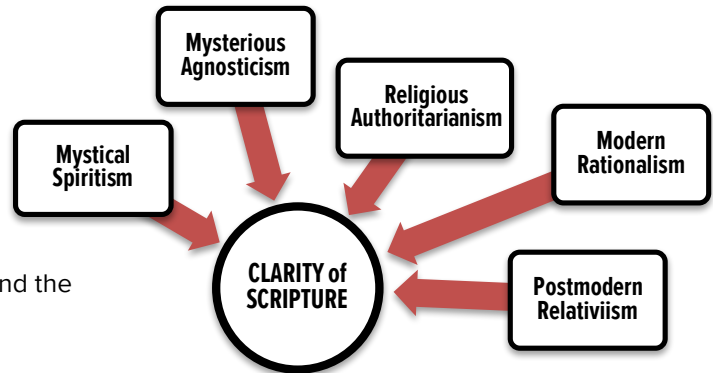
#### Definition

*The Bible is a unified story that is clearly understandable to all who devote themselves to study it in dependence on the Holy Spirit in order to follow it.*

### Challenges to the Clarity of Scripture

These Challenges Come Down to Two Questions

- ❖ Are the Scriptures **CLEAR enough** to be understood by diligent study with the help of the Holy Spirit?
- ❖ Are all believers **CAPABLE enough** to study and understand the Scriptures for themselves?



### What Is Clear About Clarity?

#### 1. God Has SPOKEN CLEARLY in the Bible About What Is Necessary for Bridging the Gap to Know and Enjoy Him.

(v. 15) The Bible is **clear enough** to bring anyone – even a young child - to a **SAVING faith** in Jesus Christ!

(v. 16) The Bible is **clear enough** to lead anyone to a **GROWING faith** in Jesus Christ!

(v. 17) The Bible is **clear enough** to equip anyone with a **SHARING faith** about Jesus Christ!

*"Scripture is like a river...broad and deep, shallow enough here for the lamb to go wading, but deep enough there for the elephant to swim." - Early Church Father, Gregory the Great*

❖ The Bible clearly teaches its own clarity. *Proverbs 6:23; Psalm 36:9; 119:105, 130; 19:7-12*

❖ The Divine **CHARACTER** of the Trinity guarantees the clarity of Scripture.

- 1) God the Father – the **CREATOR** of Language - is the ultimate Communicator.  
*Deuteronomy 30:11-14; Romans 10:5-15*
- 2) God the Son - the **LIVING** Word -relied on the Written Word as His clear and final authority.  
*"Have you not read?" Matthew 12:3, 5; 19:4; 22:31; Mark 12:10, 26; Luke 6:3; Matthew 9:13; John 3:10; Matthew 22:29; Luke 24:25*
- 3) God the Spirit – the **TEACHER-HELPER** of Truth – empowers not only inspiration but also the illumination.  
*John 14:16, 25; 15:26; 1Corinthians 2:9-16; Ephesians 1:15-19; Psalm 119:18*

❖ The Apostles clearly put the clarity of the Scriptures into **PRACTICE**.

- 1) Paul's entire missionary calling **was based** on the clarity of the Scriptures. Acts 26:16-18
- 2) Even though Peter said that Paul wrote Scripture that sometimes was hard to understand, he went on **to rebuke** those who did not learn it or tried to distort its true meaning. 2Peter 3:16

## 2. All of God's People **FULLY CAPABLE** of Understanding and Obeying the Bible.

(v. 15) The Bible is **so clear** anyone can study it and teach it to others...and everyone should do both!

**Are the Scriptures Clear Enough and Are People Capable Enough to Understand Them with the Help of the Holy Spirit?**

*The Bible Says "Yes" and Does So in an Amazing Way...*

- 1) God links clarity to His **ABILITY** to do what He says!  
*Psalms 19:7-12; 2Timothy 3:15-17; James 1:21-22; 1Peter 1:22-2:3*
- 2) God links clarity to our **ACCOUNTABILITY** to do what He says!  
*Psalms 10:4, 11, 13; Psalms 19:7-12; 2Timothy 3:15-17; James 1:21-22; 1Peter 1:22-2:3*

### Clearing Up the Confusion About Clarity

*Scripture Clearly Says It Is Able to Be Understood...*

- but (1) not **all at once**,  
and (2) not **without effort**,  
and (3) not **without ordinary means**,  
and (4) not **without the reader's willingness to obey it**,  
and (5) not **without the help of the Holy Spirit**,  
and (6) not **without human misunderstanding**,  
and (7) **never completely!**

*How Should I Begin? From J. C. Ryle on Bible Reading*

- 1) Begin reading your Bible **this very day**.
- 2) Read the Bible with **an earnest desire to understand it**.
- 3) Read the Bible with **childlike faith and humility**.
- 4) Read the Bible in **a spirit of obedience and application**.
- 5) Read the Bible **every day**.
- 6) Read **all** the Bible, and read it in **an orderly way**.
- 7) Read the Bible **fairly and honestly**.
- 8) Read the Bible **with Christ continually in view!**

### Clarity Clearly Matters

*"No greater mischief can happen to a Christian people, than to have God's Word taken from them, or falsified, so that they no longer have it pure and clear. God grant we and our descendants be not witnesses of such a calamity." – Martin Luther, Table Talk*

## 1. **HUMBLE** Yourself Before the Clear Written Word of God.

*"You should diligently learn the Word of God and by no means imagine that you know it. Let him who is able to read take a psalm in the morning, or some other chapter of Scripture, and study it for a while. This is what I do. When I get up in the morning, I pray and recite the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer with the children, adding any one of the psalms. I do this only to keep myself well acquainted with these matters, and I do not want to let the mildew of the notion grow that I know them well enough. The devil is a greater rascal than you think he is. You do as yet not know what sort of fellow he is and what a desperate rogue you are. His definite design is to get you tired of the Word and in this way to draw you away from it. This is his aim." – Martin Luther*

## 2. **HUNGER** for the Clear Written Word of God.

*"For some years now, I have read through the Bible twice every year. If you picture the Bible to be a mighty tree and every word a little branch, I have shaken every one of these branches because I wanted to know what it was and what it meant." - Martin Luther*

*"The neglect of Scripture, even by spiritual leaders, is one of the greatest evils in the world. Everything else, arts or literature, is pursued and practiced day and night, and there is no end of labor and effort; but Holy Scripture is neglected as though there were no need of it...But its words are not, as some think, mere literature; they are words of life, intended not for speculation and fancy but for life and action. By why complain? No one pays any attention to our lament. May Christ our Lord help us by His Spirit to love and honor His holy Word with all our heart. Amen." – Martin Luther*

*"When the Holy Spirit raises a man from the death of sin and makes him a new creature in Christ Jesus, the new principle in that man's heart requires food, and the only food which will sustain it is the Word of God." - J. C. Ryle, Bible Reading*

*"Show me a person who despises Bible reading, or thinks little of Bible preaching, and I hold it to be a certain fact that he is not yet 'born again.'" - J. C. Ryle, Bible Reading*

## 3. Do the **HARD WORK** to Understand and Obey the Clear Written Word of God.