

# How to Read the Bible

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An *inspired* Bible provides direct communication from God to the reader.

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Where do you start?



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- Pray: *When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth* Jn 16:13

# How to read the Bible

- Obey what you learn:
  - *Now by this we may be sure that we know him, if we obey his commandments.*
  - *All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them*
  - *For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments.*

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- Tradition: “the democracy of the dead”

# Comparison

Building	Scaffolding
Knowing God	Knowing about God
Direct communication	Indirect communication
First hand information	Second hand information
Understanding	Background knowledge
Permanent	Temporary

Scaffolding is useful: but is not part of the building

It is not a substitute for a personal encounter with God

(Don't camp out on the scaffolding forever!)



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3. No other interpretation is even considered

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  6. Therefore: miracles cannot happen!
- ... and the circle is complete

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All Bible passages about the future state of souls are interpreted within this set of assumptions

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- *The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand*

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- *The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord Rom 6:23*

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- *These will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might 2 Thes 1:9*
- *But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, being kept until the day of judgement and destruction of the godless 2 Peter 3:7*

# Conditional Immortality

john Stott, John Wenham, Philip E. Hughes, etc.