

Bible

We believe God has revealed the truth about Himself in the Old and New Testament. It is a collection of sixty-six unique books. These books were written over a one-thousand-year period in three languages, by widely different types of people, with different literary styles, and for different reasons. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ, and His two-part answer to the question of "what is the greatest commandment in the law?" Love God. Love People.

Principles for Studying the Bible

1. Context:
 - a. What is the author's intent?
 - b. What is the historical & cultural setting?
2. Zoom In, Zoom Out, Zoom In Again
3. Don't read it Left to Right. Read it Gospels Out. (Jesus Lens)
4. Ask: What are the problems in the story?

James 2

My brothers and sisters, practice your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ by not favoring one person over another.

²For example, two men come to your worship service. One man is wearing gold rings and fine clothes; the other man, who is poor, is wearing shabby clothes. ³Suppose you give special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say to him, "Please have a seat." But you say to the poor man, "Stand over there," or "Sit on the floor at my feet."

⁴Aren't you discriminating against people and using a corrupt standard to make judgments?

Mark 15

⁴⁰Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. ⁴¹In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

⁴²It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, ⁴³Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁴⁴Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.