

Lesson 14: The Salutation and Collect, The Lessons and Their Responses, The Gradual or Sentence, and the Hallelujah: How We Are to Regard the Bible

Then shall be said or chanted

The Salutation

℣: The Lord be with you. (Judges 6:12; Ruth 2:4; Luke 1:28; 2 Tim. 4:22; 2 Th. 3:16)

℟: And with thy spirit.

℣: Let us pray.

Then shall the Minister say or chant

The Collect for the Day (John 15:16, 1 Tim. 2:8)

℟: Amen.

Then shall the Minister read

The Epistle (Col. 4:16)

The Gradual (Varies by Sunday)

The Hallelujah or The Triple Hallelujah (Psalms 113-118, Rev. 19:6)

Or:

Sentences for the Seasons (Varies by Season)

The Gospel (Luke 4:17-21, John 20:30-31)

The Congregation shall rise, unless it has stood during the reading of the Epistle, and shall say or chant:

Glory be to Thee, O Lord! (Eph. 3:21; 2 Pet. 3:18)

The Gospel ended, the Minister shall say:

Here endeth the Gospel.

Congregation: Praise be to Thee, O Christ! (Rev. 5:13)

What is the purpose of the Salutation? How is the Lord with us? (What's just happened and about to happen in the Service?)

Why is the Minister designated as the one who prays the Collect and reads the Lessons?

What are the functions of the Collect? Read the Collects on p. 102ff; what pattern is evident?

Why do we have (several) readings from the Bible in our Service?

What is an Epistle? A Gospel?

What is a Gradual? What is its function and purpose? Where do you find the Gradual?

What is the Hallelujah in response to and in anticipation of?

What's the difference between the Gradual and the Sentences for the Seasons?

Why do we rise for the Gospel and have the special ascriptions of praise before and after it is read? Consider St. Matthew 28:19-20 and Hebrews 2:1,2.

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As it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches. I Corinthians 2:9,10,13

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What is the Bible?

- (a) **Mark 7:10,11,13** **Moses said...**But you say...making **the Word of God** of no effect through your tradition.
- (b) **1 Th 2:13** When you received **the Word of God which you heard from us**, you welcomed it **not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God.**
- (b) **John 14:26** The Helper, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, He **will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**
- (a b c) **Heb 1:1,2** **God**, who at various times and in different ways **spoke** in time past to the fathers **by the prophets** has in these last days spoken to us **by His Son.**

THESE WORDS OF GOD TEACH US:

- (A) The first part of the Bible, known as the Old Testament, is...
- (B) The other part of the Bible, known as the New Testament, is...
- (C) The whole Bible, from beginning to end, is...
(‘Bible’ simply means ‘book’; what a book it is, to simply be called The Book! Other names for the Bible are: Holy Scripture, The Scriptures, Holy Writ, Book of Books, The Word of God.)

Who wrote the Bible?

- (a) **2 Pet 1:21** Holy **men** of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
- (b) **1 Pet 1:10** The **prophets**...prophesied of the grace that would come to you.
- (c) **1 Cor 2:13** These things **we** also speak.

THESE WORDS OF GOD TEACH US:

- (A) The Bible was written by...
- (B) The Old Testament was written by the holy...
- (C) The New Testament was written by the holy...
(The Old Testament was written (in Hebrew and Aramaic) before...
The New Testament was written (in Greek) after...
The contents of both parts revolve around...)

Why is the Bible the Word of God even though it was written by men?

- (a) **2 Pet 1:20,21** No **prophecy of Scripture** is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came **by** the will of **man**, but holy men of God spoke **as they were moved by the Holy Spirit**.
- (b) **2 Tim 3:16** All Scripture is **given by inspiration of God** (is 'God-breathed').
- (b) **1 Cor 2:13** These things we also speak, not in **words** which man's wisdom teaches but **which the Holy Spirit teaches**.
- (b) **2 Pet 3:15,16** Our beloved brother **Paul**...has written to you, as also in all **his epistles**...which those who are untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do also **the rest of the Scriptures**.

THESE WORDS OF GOD TEACH US:

- (A) God moved (that is, 'impelled', 'carried along') the prophets, evangelists, and apostles to write and as they wrote.
- (B) "All Scripture," that is, every single word of both Testaments, was "breathed by God," God giving them the very thoughts which they expressed and the words with which to express them, so that the whole Bible is...

(This is known as 'plenary verbal inspiration'.)

Other things which show the divine character and divine authorship of Scripture are:

Unity: Comprised of over five dozen books by more than three dozen different writers across the span of sixteen centuries on a subject more disagreed about than any, yet one Book, one spirit, one theme

(Jesus Christ as Savior: in the Old Testament concealed, in the New Testament revealed).

Fulfillment of Prophecies (at least 226 directly cited) in the Life of Christ:

Effects:

Preservation:

What are some of the qualities, or attributes, of the Bible?

- (a) **John 17:17** Your Word is **truth**.
- (a) **John 10:35** Scripture **cannot be broken**.
- (b) **Psa 119:105** Your Word is a **lamp** to my feet and a **light** to my path.
- (c) **Luke 16:29** They have Moses and the prophets; **let them hear them**.

THESE WORDS OF GOD TEACH US:

- (A) The Bible is 'true', that is...
- (B) The Bible is...
- (C) The Bible is sufficient, containing all that we need to know for salvation and life. We are not, therefore, to seek information and guidance in spiritual matters from any other source, whether reason, tradition, new revelations and visions, etc. All teaching and activity is to be measured ultimately in the light of the Bible alone.

For what purpose did God give us the Bible?

- (a) **2 Chr 34:27** You **humbled yourself** before God **when you heard** His words.
- (a) **Rom 3:20** By the Law is the knowledge of sin.
- (b) **John 5:39** You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have **eternal life**; and (uet) these are **theu** which **testifu of Me**.

- (b) **2 Tim 3:15** *The Holy Scriptures, which are **able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.***
- (c) **1 Pet 2:2** *As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may **grow thereby,***
- (d) **Psa 119:9** *How can a young man **cleanse his way?** By taking heed **according to Your Word.***
- (e) **Titus 1:9** *Holding fast the faithful Word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to **exhort and convict those who contradict.***
- (f) **Psa 119:92** *Unless Your Law (Torah) had been **my delight,** I would then have perished **in my affliction.***

THESE WORDS OF GOD TEACH US:

God gave us the Bible

- (A) To lead us to true knowledge of, and...
- (B) **CHIEFLY...**
- (C) To strengthen and preserve us in the saving faith;
- (D) To train us in holiness of life;
- (E) To enable us to detect and combat spiritual error and false teaching;
- (F) To...

How are we to use the Bible?

- (a) **Acts 17:11** *(The Bereans) received the Word with all readiness, and **searched the Scriptures** daily to find out whether these things were so.*
- (b c) **Luke 11:28** *Blessed are those who **hear** the Word of God and **keep** it!*
- (c) **Luke 2:19** *Mary **kept** all these things and **pondered** them in her heart.*
- (d) **Psa 119:73** ***Give me understanding,** that I may **learn** Your commandments.*
- (d) **Mat 22:37** *Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with **all your mind.***
- (d) **2 Pet 1:20** *No prophecy of Scripture is of any **private** interpretation.*
- (d) **Rom 3:4** *Let God be true but every man a liar.*
- (d) **Col 2:8** *Beware lest anyone cheat you through **philosophy** and **empty deceit,** according to the **tradition of men,** according to the **basic principles of the world,** and **not according to Christ.***
- (d) **2 Pet 3:16** *(In Paul's letters) are **some things hard to understand,** which **those who are untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction,** as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.*
- (e) **John 14:15,23** *If you love Me, **keep My commandments...**If anyone loves Me, he will **keep My Word.***
- (f) **Acts 4:20** *We cannot but **speak** the things which we have seen and heard.*

THESE WORDS OF GOD TEACH US:

- (A) We should diligently and reverently...
- (B) We should regularly and devoutly...
- (C) We should, especially,...

- (D) We should use our reason as a servant to the text of Scripture—not as lord over God’s Word. We are, therefore, to apply the rules of language and communication, such as grammar, logic, and context, but we may not question or deny the truthfulness of the sacred text (as happens, for example, with ‘historical criticism’, which seeks to guess at a ‘meaning’ that lies apart from the words of the text). Also, we must remember that the guidance and enlightenment of the Holy Spirit is essential for proper understanding. Scripture is not open to ‘private interpretation’; instead, we must accept Scripture’s own interpretation of Scripture. In doing this, we may consult the Confessions of God’s Church, i.e., the Book of Concord, as well as the works of scholars who hold to these Confessions, but in the end, any interpretation of any verse or section of the Bible must be judged in the light of the rest of Holy Scripture.
- (E) We should...
- (F) We should...

What distinction must we ever keep in mind so that we rightly understand the Bible?

John 1:17 For the **Law** was given through Moses, but **grace** and truth came through Jesus Christ.

THESE WORDS OF GOD TEACH US:

We must sharply distinguish between the Law and the Gospel in the Bible.

BIBLE DISCUSSION: Psalm 119; “The Excellence of God’s Word”

READ the Small Catechism, pp. 47-52, CPH 1991 Blue (47–53 Mar), 39-43 (CPH 1941), 39–43 STLK

MEMORIZE The Third Article of the Apostolic Creed, Small Catechism, pp. 15, CPH 1991 Blue (17 Mar), 11 (CPH 1941), 16 STLK

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING

1. The Bible
 - A) is God’s Word.
 - B) contains God’s Word.
 - C) is the record of God’s revelation of Himself.
2. The Bible is called God’s Word because
 - A) it tells us about God.
 - B) it was written by learned theologians.
 - C) God determined and gave its contents.
3. T F There may be errors or contradictions in the Bible.
4. T F We should only accept those teachings of the Bible that agree with our reason.
5. T F The main purpose of the Bible is to show us how to live right.
6. The first five books of the bible were written by _____.
7. Most of the Psalms were written by _____.
8. The book of Isaiah was written by _____.
9. The Epistle to the Romans was written by _____.

*First [, then, we receive and embrace with our whole heart] the Prophetic and Apostolic Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the **pure, clear** fountain of Israel, which is the **only true standard** by which all teachers and doctrines are to be judged.*

***Formula of Concord**, Thorough Declaration, Summary Formulation, 3*