

CatClub: Question 42



This week we come to the vitally important subject of our attitude as Christians to the Bible, which is unlike any other book because its author is God himself. When we hear or read the Bible, we hear God speaking.

Q42 asks: How is the Word of God (=the Bible) to be read and heard? Answer: **With diligence (=with due care and effort), preparation and prayer; so that we may accept it with faith, store it in our hearts and practise it in our lives.**

1. Investigation - please look up:

1. (In the New Testament) 2 Timothy chapter 3, verses 16-17. Here Paul is writing to Timothy, the young man whom he is mentoring in Christian leadership. **Notice that Paul describes the Bible ('all Scripture') as having been 'breathed out' by God himself: that's why we call it his Word.** We also learn that **the Bible is useful for teaching us, telling us off, correcting us and training us in right living so that we can do God's work in the world.**

2. (In the New Testament) Hebrews chapter 4, verse 12. Here the writer (we don't know his name for sure) tells us that **the Bible reveals our innermost thoughts and attitudes.**

3. (In the Old Testament) Isaiah chapter 55, verse 11. Here we learn that **God's Word has a purpose which it always achieves in human lives.**

4. (In the New Testament) Luke chapter 11, verse 28. Luke teaches us here that **God blesses those who listen to the Bible and put what it says into practice in their lives.**

5. (In the New Testament) Acts chapter 17, verse 11. Luke, the author of Acts, writes that **the believers in Berea, a town in modern-day northern Greece, were eager to check out from the Bible whether what Paul was teaching them was true.** What the Bible says is the ultimate judge of whether something is true or not. That's why we should read it and learn from it.

>>>Next week's question: What are the sacraments or ordinances? (Hint: water; bread and wine.)

This week's songs:

(i) 'Speak, O Lord': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubRIJj8xkds>

(ii) 'Show us Christ': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gp9JxmouLE>

(iii) 'Every Promise of Your Word':

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DpSlliWkEM&list=PLh_zYS6MYQNnMbVSTiEgdYFoMwhVs2yz4

(iv) 'Ancient Words':

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouTgX9hcwk4&list=PLh_zYS6MYQNnMbVSTiEgdYFoMwhVs2yz4&index=6

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...

Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Isaiah 55:11

**¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**

Luke 11:28

²⁸ But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Acts 17:11

¹¹ Now these Jews (=the Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.