

# SELF-FEEDER

A Book Unlike Any Other Book

Psalm 12:6

Lesson 1

“Holy Scripture should be thought of as God preaching — God preaching to me every time I read or hear any part of it — God the Father preaching God the Son in the power of God the Holy Spirit.” **J.I. Packer**

*Why the Bible is a book unlike any other book...*

## 1. The Trinitarian Nature of the Bible

John 16:13-14

Realization of these realities can do a lot to foster a stronger devotion to Scripture in our lives. Some are weak in their devotion to the Bible because they see it as being little more than another book. Even if they regard it as a divine book or a spiritual book, many lose sight of the supernatural, trinitarian nature of the Bible. Scripture loses its luster for those who don't see it as a Trinitarian communication of the Father's program of redemption, accomplished by the Son, and applied by the Holy Spirit. However, when one sees the Bible as a means of having fellowship with the beautiful, Triune God, one will be more likely to cherish its pages.

## 2. The Inspiration of the Bible

Scripture extols the heavenly nature of Scripture. Old Testament and New Testament authors alike frequently spoke of the Bible as containing “the Word of the Lord” (Genesis 15:1-4; Joshua 8:8; Psalm 18:30; Isaiah 1:10; Hosea 1:1; Acts 8:25; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 1 Peter 1:25).

2 Timothy 3:16

Speaking of Scripture, one Dutch Reformer said... “The primary, yes, the only essential cause is God.” **Wilhelmus à Brakel**

## 3. The Authority of the Bible

Isaiah 1:2

John 5:36

An understanding of these things should shape our Bible study. To become healthy self-feeders of God's Word, we must have a high regard for the authority of Scripture. We can't approach the word with a personal agenda. We must have the frame of mind Eli encouraged of young Samuel, regularly telling the Lord, "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears" (1 Samuel 3:9).

#### 4. The Central Theme of the Bible

2 Timothy [3:15](#)

"...the point of all the Scriptures is to make Christ known. As the Son makes his Father known, so the Spirit-breathed Scriptures make the Son known." **Michael Reeves**

#### 5. The Folly of a Human-Centered Approach to Scripture

"There are many...offering Christ to people as a friend or helper or sympathizer, as one who can understand them, as one who will be with them. All that is absolutely true, but you do not start with it." **Martyn-Lloyd Jones**

All of this is of chief importance as we learn how to study the Word of God for ourselves. If we start our study with the wrong perspective, we will surely make mistakes. Our explanation and application of any given passage will likely go astray from the Lord's original intent. Worst of all, a self-oriented perspective will keep us from gazing upon the soul-liberating, life-transforming realities of the gospel.

#### 6. The Power of the Holy Spirit in Scripture

Hebrews [4:12](#)

*Upcoming lessons in this study...*

- Daily Bread: Regularly Feeding on God's Word
- The Story of Scripture
- The Storyline of Scripture
- E.A.R.S. — Interpretative Tools
- E.A.R.S. — Interpretative Traps
- Explanation — Unlocking the Original Meaning of a Passage
- Application — Understanding the Meaning of a Passage for God's People
- Respond — Understanding How God Wants You to Respond to A Passage
- Share — Understanding How You Can Share What You Have Learned