

**Loris First Baptist Church**  
**“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”**

**Doctrine #3: The Bible: Its Purpose and Subject**

Note: Most information based on pages 25-30 of the book “Major Bible Themes” by Lewis Sperry Chaffer.

**The “Purpose” for God Giving Us His Written “Inspired” Word:**

1. According to the written Word of God, “one supreme purpose” is revealed in all that God has done or will do, from the beginning of creation to the farthest reaches of eternity:

a. The supreme purpose of the bible is the “manifestation” (i.e. to make “clear” or “obvious”) the glory of God.

Psalm 19:1 *“The heavens declare the glory of God...”*

b. To make clear and “reflect” the glory of God is the purpose for why angels were created, the material universe was designed, and man was created in His image and likeness.

Colossians 1:16 *“For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him...”* (i.e. “for His glory”)

c. Through God’s unsearchable wisdom, even “sin” of man was permitted and the “redemption” of man through Christ was provided with a view towards pointing towards the glory of God.

Romans 9:22-23 *“What if God, choosing to show His wrath and make His power known, bore with great patience the objects of His wrath—prepared for destruction? What if He did this to make the riches of His glory known to the objects of His mercy, whom He prepared in advance for glory...”*

Isaiah 43:25 *“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for My own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”*

Ephesians 2:6-7 *“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”*

Ephesians 3:10-11 *“His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to His eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

2. For God to constantly desire to manifest (make obvious) His glory is in keeping with His infinite perfections:
  - a. When man attempts to glorify Himself, it is always based on “ignorance” and/or “arrogance” because man is so imperfect.
  - b. For God to manifest His glory is to express and reveal “TRUTH” which has infinite blessings for all of His creation.
3. Because God is infinite in His being and absolute in His perfection, He is “worthy” of infinite glory, and it would be an “injustice” of infinite proportions should His creation withhold from Him the full expression of that honor and glory which are rightfully His.
4. In manifesting (i.e. revealing) His glory, God is NOT self-seeking, but rather is expressing His glory for the BENEFIT of His creation. The revelation of His glory to His creatures has:
  - a. Provided man with a “worthy” object for love and devotion.
  - b. Given man ground for faith and peace of mind.
  - c. Given man assurance of salvation in time and eternity.
5. The more man comprehends and understands the glory of God, the greater is the “blessing” that man receives from this knowledge and awareness. Man is to know that:
  - a. The nation of Israel is for the “glory of God”

Isaiah 43:6-7 *“Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth — everyone who is called by my name (i.e. the nation of Israel), whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made.”*

Isaiah 43:20-21 *“...I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to My people, My chosen, the people (i.e. the nation of Israel) I formed for Myself that they may proclaim My praise.”*

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Isaiah 60:21 *“Then will all your people (i.e. the nation of Israel) be righteous and they will possess the land forever. They are the shoot I have planted, the work of My hands, for the display of My splendor.”*

Jeremiah 13:11 *“For as a belt is bound around a man’s waist, so I bound the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah to Me,’ declares the LORD, ‘to be My people for my renown and praise and honor’...”*

b. Salvation is for the “glory of God”

Romans 9:23-24 *“What if He did this to make the riches of His glory known to the objects of His mercy, whom He prepared in advance for glory— even us, whom He also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?”*

1) Salvation brings “glory” to God’s grace:

Ephesians 2:6-7 *“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”*

2) Salvation brings “glory” to God’s wisdom:

Ephesians 3:10-11 *“His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to His eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

c. All Service should be unto the “glory of God”

Matthew 5:16 *“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”*

John 15:8 *“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”*

1 Corinthians 10:31 *“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”*

1 Peter 2:12 *“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.”*

1 Peter 4:11 *“If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”*

d. A Christian’s “desire” is that God may be “glorified”

Romans 5:2 *“...And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.”*

e. A Christian’s “death” can bring “glory” to God

John 21:19 *“Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God...”*

Philippians 1:20 *“I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.”*

f. Those that are “saved” are appointed to share in “the glory of Christ”

John 17:22 *“I have given them the glory that You gave Me, that they may be one as We are One...”*

Colossians 3:4 *“When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”*

6. In Summary, since the Bible is God’s message to man, its supreme purpose is HIS SUPREME PURPOSE – which is, that He may be glorified!

### **The “Subject” of God’s Written “Inspired” Word:**

1. The Subject of God’s Word is primarily Jesus Christ and how He relates to His creation, predominately the History of Mankind.

a. The Lord Jesus Christ is the supreme subject of the Bible. In reading Scripture, however, the “perfections” of Christ in His Person and work are presented in many ways:

1) Jesus Christ as the Creator:

a) The early chapters of Genesis record the creation of the world as accomplished by God, using the word “*elohim*” which includes God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

b) It is not until one reaches the New Testament that it is revealed clearly that all things were made by Christ:

John 1:1-3 *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.”*

Colossians 1:15-17 *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”*

c) This does NOT mean that God the Father and God the Holy Spirit had no part in creation, but it does give to Christ the place of being the main actor in the creation of the universe. Accordingly, the perfections of the universe reflect His handiwork.

2) Jesus Christ as the Supreme Ruler of the World:

a) Because He is the Creator, Jesus Christ also has the place of being the supreme ruler of the universe. While Scripture attributes supreme “sovereignty” to God the Father, it is clear it is His purpose that Christ should rule the world:

Psalm 2:7-9 *"He said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father. Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your inheritance, the ends of the earth Your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter...'"*

Philippians 2:9-11 *"Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

b) Even though most of mankind will "reject" Christ as their ruler, He will still rule the world:

Psalm 110:1-2 *"The Lord says to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.' The Lord will extend Your mighty scepter from Zion; You will rule in the midst of Your enemies."*

Revelation 19:15-16 *"Out of His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. 'He will rule them with an iron scepter.' He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords."*

c) In fulfilling His purposes, God has permitted earthly rulers to occupy their thrones temporarily. Great nations have risen and fallen such as Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome, but the final kingdom will be the kingdom from heaven over which Christ will rule:

Daniel 2:44 *"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."*

Daniel 7:13-14 *"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into His presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."*

d) Not only is Christ the King over the nations, but He will reign on the throne of David as the Son of David and especially will be the King of Israel:

Luke 1:31-33 *"You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end."*

e) Christ is also the supreme "head" of His church:

Ephesians 1:22-23 *"And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way."*

Colossians 1:18 *"And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy."*

3) Jesus Christ as the Incarnate (i.e. “in flesh”) Word:

- a) In the New Testament especially, Jesus Christ is revealed as the Incarnate Word, the physical embodiment of what God is, and a revelation of the nature and being of God.
- b) In Christ are revealed all the attributes that belong to God, especially His wisdom, power, holiness, and love:

John 1:1, 14 *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning... The Word became flesh (i.e. “incarnate”) and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

- c) Through Jesus Christ, men can come to know God in a more accurate and detailed way than in any other means of divine revelation:

Hebrews 1:3 *“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”*

- d) It is a central purpose of God that He reveals Himself to His Creatures through Jesus Christ!

4) Jesus Christ as the Savior of Mankind:

- a) In the drama of history, beginning with man’s creation and fall and ending in the new heaven and the new earth, the work of Jesus Christ as the Savior is a prominent theme of Scripture.
- b) Christ is the promised “seed” who would conquer Satan:

Genesis 3:15 *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”*

- c) In the Old Testament, Christ is pictured as the servant of Jehovah who would bear the sins of the whole world:

Isaiah 53:4-6 *“Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to His own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”*

- d) As a sacrifice for sin, Christ was to die on the cross and suffer the judgment of the sin of the whole world:

John 1:29 *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"*

1Corinthians 15:3-4 *"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures..."*

2Corinthians 5:19-21 *"that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them...God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."*

1Peter 1:18-19 *"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."*

1John 2:2 *"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."*

e) As Savior, He is not only the sacrifice for sin, but also our High Priest:

Hebrews 7:24-27 *"...because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood. Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because He always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, He does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for His own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when He offered himself."*

f) One of the central purposes of God, as revealed in Scripture, is to provide salvation through Jesus Christ for a lost race. Accordingly, from Genesis to Revelation, Jesus Christ is presented supremely as the only Savior:

Acts 4:12 *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

b. While the Lord Jesus Christ is the supreme subject of the Bible, God's Word also records the history of mankind in keeping with that purpose:

1) The creation narrative in the early chapters of Genesis culminates in the creation of Adam and Eve. From there on, Scripture as a whole unfolds God's plan and purpose for the human race.

2) As later chapters disclose, God's sovereign purposes for the nations of the world are majestically unfolded in the history of the race:

a) In chapters 6-9, the immediate descendants of Adam and Eve are blotted out in the flood in the time of Noah.

- b) Genesis 10 records the descendants of Noah as they formed the three major divisions of the human race.
  - c) Then, as the descendants of Noah also failed and were judged at the Tower of Babel (in Genesis 11), God selected Abraham to fulfill His purpose of revealing Himself through the people of Israel.
  - d) Beginning in Genesis 12, a dominant theme of the Bible is the emergence and history of the nation of Israel. Most of the Old Testament is occupied with this fairly small nation in relation to the mass of Gentile nations that surrounded them. This history of Israel includes their rebellion against God and their subsequent punishment by His hand. However, even in the midst of God punishing the rebellious people of Israel, He makes promises to save a “remnant” of them (as well as a “remnant of Gentiles”) by sending the “Christ” to earth to pay for the sins of the world.
  - e) In the purposes of God, this culminates in the New Testament in the coming of Jesus Christ who supremely fulfilled the promise given originally to Abraham that through his “seed” all nations of the world would be blessed.
2. In the New Testament, another “subject” emerges that combines the purposes of Jesus Christ with the history of mankind. This subject is “the church” as the body of Christ, comprising both Jew and Gentiles who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- a. Thus, the New Testament is occupied especially in the book of Acts and the Epistles with God’s dealings with the church. The book of Revelation is the grand climax of it all.
  - b. The succession of great empires – beginning with Egypt and Assyria and continuing with Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome – is climaxed by the kingdom which comes from heaven at the second coming of Christ.
  - c. Jew and Gentile alike are found in the millennial kingdom, with Israel finding its fulfillment in the possessing of the land under its Messiah King and the nations of the world enjoying also the blessings of the millennial kingdom (i.e. Revelation 20).
3. In Summary, the “subject” of Scripture centers in Jesus Christ and relates the history of the world to God’s “purpose” to bring “glory to Himself”. The major movements of God can, accordingly, be seen in the demonstration of His sovereignty in relation to the nations, His faithfulness in relation to Israel, and His grace in relation to the Church. The consummation of it all is found in the new heavens, the new earth, and the new Jerusalem (i.e. Revelation 21-22) as history recedes and eternity begins!



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***“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”***

**Study Guide for Doctrine #3: “The Bible: Its Purpose and Subject”**

1. Read Pages 1-8 from the Doctrine#3 Study Guide by next Wednesday.
2. Answer the following Questions about “The Bible: Its Purpose and Subject” as you read:

**a. The “Purpose” for God Giving Us His Written “Inspired” Word:**

- 1) What is the “one supreme purpose” that is revealed in the written Word of God for all that He has done or will do? (page 1; top)
  
- 2) What was the “purpose” for why man was created in God’s image and likeness? (page 1; top)
  
- 3) What was “permitted” and what was “provided” to actually point towards the glory of God? (page 1; middle)
  
- 4) According to Romans 9:22-23, what did God do in order to show His “wrath” and make His “power” known? (page 1; middle)
  
- 5) True or False. God chose to blot out man’s transgressions only because He loves mankind. (Isaiah 43:25)
  
- 6) Why has God raised believers up with Christ and seated us with Him in the “heavenly realms”? (Ephesians 2:6-7)
  
- 7) When man attempts to glorify himself, it is ALWAYS based on what? Why? (page 2; top)

- 8) For God to manifest His glory is to express and reveal “what”? (page 2, top)
  
- 9) Why is God, unlike man, “deserving” of having man recognize His infinite glory? (pg 2; top)
  
- 10) What are the “3” main purposes for God “revealing” His glory to His creatures? (pg 2; middle)
  
- 11) The more man “comprehends” and “understands” the glory of God, the greater is what?  
(page 2; middle)
  
- 12) According to Isaiah 43:6-7, for what reason did God created and choose the nation of Israel?
  
- 13) According to Isaiah 60:21, Israel is the shoot that God planted to display what?
  
- 14) According to Romans 9:23-24, what did God provide mankind for “His own glory”?  
(page 3; top)
  
- 15) According to Ephesians 2:6-7, God raised us up with Christ Jesus (i.e. “saved us”) in order that in the coming ages, He might show “what”? (page 3, top)
  
- 16) According to Matthew 5:16, why should we allow men to see our good deeds?
  
- 17) How can YOU bring “glory to God” according to Jesus Christ? (John 15:8; page 3, middle)

18) Why are we to continue living “good lives” even amongst “pagans” that accuse us of doing wrong? (1Peter 2:12; page 3, middle)

19) What can even a righteous Christian’s “death” do? (page 3, bottom)

20) What are “saved” people appointed to “share” in when Christ returns? (page 4, top)

**b. The “Subject” of God’s Written “Inspired” Word**

1) What is the primary “subject” of God’s Holy Word? (page 4, middle)

2) The New Testament reveals that all things were created through and by whom? (John 1:1-3)

3) True or False. Only God, the Son, was involved in creating “all things”. (page 4, bottom)

4) Because He is the Creator, Jesus Christ also has what “place” in the universe? (page 4, bottom)

5) According to Psalm 110:1-2, Jesus Christ will even rule in the “midst” of whom? (pg 5, top)

6) According to Revelation 19:16, On Christ’s robe and on His thigh (when He returns to earth) has what name written on it? (page 5, middle)

7) According to Daniel 7:13-14, what was the one “like a Son of Man” GIVEN by the Ancient of Days in heaven? (page 5, middle)

- 8) Whose throne will Jesus Christ be “given” to rule over the house of Jacob forever?  
(Luke 1:31-33)
  
- 9) What is called “Christ’s body” which God placed Jesus to be “head over everything”?  
(Ephesians 1:22-23)
  
- 10) What does the word “incarnate” mean when applied to Jesus Christ? (page 6, top)
  
- 11) In the N.T., Jesus Christ is called the Incarnate Word, which reveals “what” about Him?  
(page 6, top)
  
- 12) The “Word” became “what” and dwelt among mankind? (John 1:14; page 6, middle-top)
  
- 13) Through Jesus Christ, men come to know “whom” in a more accurate way? (page 6, middle)
  
- 14) What is the “central purpose” of God that is revealed in the Scriptures? (page 6, middle)
  
- 15) In Genesis 3:15, God said that the “woman’s” seed would bruise the head of Satan. Who was this “seed” (i.e. NOT “seeds”, plural) whom God was referring to? (page 6, bottom)
  
- 16) In the O.T., such as in Isaiah 53:4-6, Christ is pictured as the servant of Jehovah who does what for mankind? (page 6, bottom)
  
- 17) According to Paul, what did he pass on as “the gospel” to the Corinthian believers that was of “first importance”? (1Corinthians 15:3-4)

- 18) According to 1Peter 1:18-19, how were we redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to us by our forefathers?
  
- 19) True or False. According to God's Word, Christ is only the atoning sacrifice for the sins of believers in Him. (1John 2:2)
  
- 20) According to Hebrews 7:24, because Jesus lives forever, He has what? (page 7, middle)
  
- 21) In what role does Jesus meet our primary spiritual need? (Hebrews 7:24-27; page 7, middle)
  
- 22) True or False. As long as people are "sincere" in their beliefs and faith, even "Buddhists" and "Muslims" can be saved if they have never heard of Jesus Christ.  
(Acts 4:12; see also Romans 1:18-26)
  
- 23) In what chapter of the Bible can we find the "three" major divisions of the human race?  
(page 8, top)
  
- 24) What dominant theme in the Bible begins in Genesis 12 that occupies most of the O.T.?  
(page 8, top)
  
- 25) What was the promise given originally to Abraham in the Old Testament that Jesus Christ supremely filled in the New Testament? (page 8, middle)
  
- 26) The New Testament (especially Acts and the Epistles) is occupied primarily with God's dealings with whom? (page 8, middle)

- 27) The succession of all the great world's empires from Egypt to Rome (recorded in Scripture) is climaxed with "what"? (page 8, middle-bottom)
- 28) What does the nation of Israel find "fulfilled" after the second coming of Christ? (page 8, bottom)
- 29) In "summary", the major movements of God, as recorded in Scripture, can be seen how? (page 8, bottom)