

THE CLARITY OF SCRIPTURE

Theologians love to use big words, and they have a great one for this concept. They call this the *perspicuity* of Scripture. What it means is that everything in the Bible is knowable to you as a Christian.

Perspicuity does not mean that you automatically understand everything in the Bible, but it certainly means that you **can** understand what is there.

Believing in the perspicuity of the Bible is something that sets us apart from cults and groups like the Roman Catholic church. Those are groups that believe that only an elite group or individual can truly understand the Bible, or that there are "deep insights" reserved only for those who have had special experiences or special training.

There is no doubt that the writers of the New Testament meant for all believers to know and understand the Bible:

2 Timothy 3:16-17: All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 2:15: Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

2 Peter 1:2-3: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

Revelation 1:3: Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Expect the Bible to make sense. Treat it like other literature, by paying attention to grammar and structure, words and expressions. Relying on the Holy Spirit to help you understand, expect it to make sense. Be willing to spend time to learn what you don't know.