

Using the Bible in Caring for others

WTS 2026

Talk 1. Why we must use the Bible

What we are not doing tonight

1 John 3:16, James 2, Matthew 25:35 ff.

What we are doing – equipping ourselves for the one another's

1 Peter 1:22-25, Col. 3:16-17, Romans 15:14, 1 Thess. 4:17, 5:9, Heb 10:24-25

Why is opening the Bible necessary

1. The Goal of our care Eph. 5:25-27, John 6:37-40, John 17:24; 1 Cor. 15:19, 2 Timothy 4:7-8, Matt. 25:21; Matt. 24:13; Luke 8:15
2. Who believers are
 - a. Jesus' sheep John 10:2-5, 16, 26-28
 - b. God's adopted children John 1:12-13, 1 John 3:1-2, Romans 8:15-16; Romans 10:14-17; 1 Peter 1:22-25, James 1:18, 21-22
3. The Scriptures – their origin, purpose and character
 - a. Origin Hebrews 1:1, 2 Timothy 3:14-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Matthew 19:4-6
 - b. Purpose John 20:30-31, Romans 1:16-17, 2 Timothy 3:15; Romans 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:6-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - c. Character Isaiah 40:6-8, Psalm 146:3-4; Isaiah 55:6-11; Mark 8:34-35; John 8:12, Psalm 119:105; Mark 7:6-7

God has willed that we should seek and find His living Word in the witness of a brother, in the mouth of a man. Therefore, the Christian needs another Christian who speaks

God's Word to him. He needs him again and again when he becomes uncertain and is discouraged, for y himself he cannot help himself without belying the truth. He needs his brother mans as a bearer and proclaimer of the divine word of salvation. He needs His brother solely because of Jesus Christ. Dietrich Bonhoeffer Life together p. 23, quoted p. 70 Sally Sims Together through the Storm Matthias Media 2nd Edn 2023 [pp. 11-12 Bonhoeffer Life Together, SCM edition, 1954]

The Example of the Early Church

Romans 8:36, Ps. 44:22; Romans 14:11-12/Is. 45:23; 1 Thess. 5:2/Matt. 24:43-44; 1 Peter 3:10-12/Psalm 34:12-16; Hebrews 12:5-7/Prov. 3:11-12; Hebrews 13:5-6; Hebrews 11, James, 1 Cor. 10, 2 Cor. 8:15

The Testimony of Scripture

Psalm 19:7-11, Psalm 119:28, 49-50, 75-76, 81-4, 98-100, 105, 111, 130, 143, 165

Next week: The how of encouraging, teaching, admonishing one another with an open Bible

Marion L Carson The Pastoral Care of People with Mental Health Problems SPCK 2008

Jill McGilvray God's Love in Action. Pastoral care for everyone Acorn Press 2009

Sally Sims Together through the Storm Matthias Media 2nd Edn 2023

Martin Luther, Theodore G Tappert Luther. Letters of Spiritual Counsel Westminster Press, 1955

P.S. The Scriptures don't just give us words from God, they also give us words to approach God

e.g. when burdened by sin – Psalm 51, 25, 38, 130; In sickness Psalm 13, 6; When spiritually dry Psalm 42-43; In old age Psalm 71; In need of help Psalm 143