



The Church And Scripture
Before the Reformation

The Medieval Church controlled access to the Bible, telling parishioners what it says and means.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 85
The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the church alone.

Pre-Reformation Heroes

John Wycliffe (1300's) and John Hus (1400's) did their best to get the Bible into the hands of common people – in their own language!

These men and their followers paved the way for Martin Luther in the 1500's.

Our Reformation Heritage

Martin Luther: “The Priesthood Of All Believers”

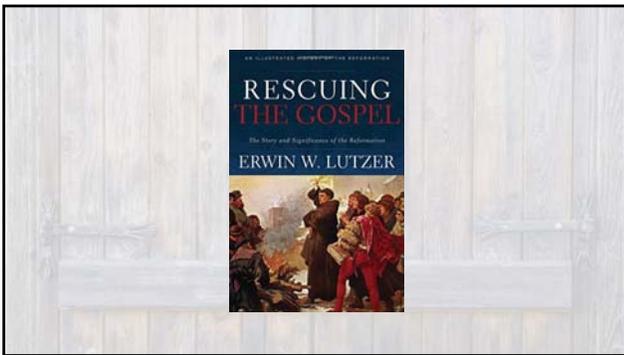
One key implication:

The Bible Is For Everyone!









Our Reformation Heritage

Martin Luther: "The priesthood of all believers"
indicates that the Bible is for everyone.

William Tyndale: English Bible Translator
(referring to the Pope)

If God spare my life for many years, I will cause a boy that driveth a plow shall know more of the Scripture than thou doest.

The Bible Is For Everyone?

The Medieval Church:

Scripture is not clear enough
to be put in the hands of ordinary people.

The Reformers:

Scripture is clear!

God is not a poor communicator!

He has something to say
to all of us, and he is very good at saying it!

The Clarity of Scripture

The Bible affirms its own clarity.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7, NIV

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.
Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home
and you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Psalms 119:130, NLT

The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the
simple.

Clarifying The Clarity Of Scripture

**The clarity of Scripture
does not mean that every
Bible passage is equally clear.**

2 Peter 3:15-16, NIV

Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our
dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.
He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these
matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand...

The Main Things Are Plain!

The clarity of Scripture does mean that the primary message of the Bible is very clear.

All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation, are so clearly propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned...may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them

Westminster Confession, 1646

Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth

Everything we NEED to know is clearly presented in Scripture.

Deuteronomy 29:29, NLT

The Lord our God has secrets know to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions.

Seeking God In His Book?

The clarity of Scripture does not mean that everyone will understand the Bible to the point of embracing its main message.

1 Corinthians 2:14, NIV

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

Psalms 119:18 & 39, NLT

Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions...
Give me understanding and I will obey your instructions...

Work At Understanding!

**The clarity of Scripture
does not mean that understanding it is effortless.**

2 Timothy 2:7 & 15, ESV

Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything...Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Just Me And The Bible?

**The clarity of Scripture
does not mean that we should
study it in isolation from other believers.**

Colossians 3:16, NIV

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom...
