

**Spirit of Life Community Adventist Fellowship**  
**Pastor William Dawson**  
**“Why Don’t We Understand The Bible?”**

The simple short answer to the above title is, we don’t understand the Bible because we don’t understand God. However the full answer is more complex than that. Have you ever thought about the reason why more people are not reading their Bibles, or have a Bible to read? In spite of our commitment to church activities, how much is really different in our lives? Does church attendance change everything for the better, or is there something else you have to do to better understand God? Recent research studies show that there is very little real difference between the life of a professed born-again believer and those who never met Christ. The difference is not in flamboyant behavior but in attitude, and generally acceptable behavior. Most professed Christians will lie, cheat on a test, watch horrible material, be inappropriately sexually, and think destructive thoughts, just like their non-Christian counterpart.

The problem seems to be that most of us who are active Christians have the wrong view, belief, and understanding about the Bible. And because we have the wrong view about the Bible, we have the wrong understanding and belief about God. Most people have forgotten the message of **2 Cor. 5:17**.

While many believe the Bible provides some excellent guidance, and advice, they do not see the Bible as an introduction to Christ. They do not see the purpose of the Bible as introducing them to Jesus so they can have a relationship with Him. For many Christians, a relationship with God means that you must obey the rules and try to be good. When you obey the rules, and try to be good, God is happy. When God is happy you have fulfilled your purpose. That is the extent of their relationship with God. God is good for rules, but they feel they must provide their own direction, purpose, and meaning. They become “idols” of their ability to create the kind of life they want to live.

Here is the danger of not understanding that the Bible is an introduction to a relationship with God – when you do not have a relationship with God, and you set up your own purpose for life, your purpose will be come what is important to you. That does not sound bad on the surface, until you notice that what is important to you is not important to the next person. Your life then becomes what you make it, what you dedicate yourself to. Many people find “one” thing, then other. Ultimately, all of them fail.

You read the Bible. You believe it. You believe it teaches you the “one” thing necessary. So what is wrong? The Bible is not a rulebook for life. The Bible does give an abundance of excellent rules. **2 Tim. 3:16**. The Bible is more than a road map to heaven. The Bible is about introducing you to Jesus. **John 17:1-3**. The next time you read the Bible, try to find Jesus on every page. In fact, take a moment now and look for Jesus in your favorite text. Try a text from the Old Testament as well as the New.