

3. It is a guide to enable us to know redemption--peace with God, that is, establishing a relationship on the ground of truth while informing us of the will and purposes of God.
4. It is a source of material to prosper us in worship and the enjoyment of living with God.

B. In this light we say the Bible is perspicuous....that it is clear and may be understood by all with the following notations.

1. Not all things are equally clear to all. Matters of society, context, culture, etc., often affect our view of the Bible and other things. However the great truths of God: His work, His character, His plan, etc, are apparent and available to all who will hear (or see!)..the redemptive work is almost simplistic in expression (John 1:12-13).
2. The secret things belong to God, we are told (Deuteronomy 29:29) but to us there is an abundance or relevant and directive information: the Ten Commandments, for example, or the Sermon on the Mount or the instructions in 1 Peter 2, etc.

### **III. More Direct Helps for Understanding**

A. Read the Bible as a narrative...for the moment, don't hunt, pick and choose or grab random passages. Read it as a narrative, a continuous account of the revelation given by God to man.

1. The Material content may be summarized as history, prophecy and litany. In these categories one will find biography, legal strictures, military accounts, songs and worship occasions, etc. The Bible is a gold mine of material touching on almost every area of life.
2. Get an understanding of the major divisions: The Old Testament.
  - a. The Old Testament gives the history of redemption in that God created man and provided for him a means to live in fellowship with God forever. This is done through the choosing of a people to represent Him and that through that people all the world would be blessed.
  - b. The Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible) tells how God created and then selected a witness and ordered its life.