



**Seven approaches to using the Bible – where are you on the spectrum?**

**Where does your balance of the quadrilateral of Bible – Tradition – Reason – Experience place you?**

<p>The Bible is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the inerrant Word of God</li> <li>• has complete authority</li> <li>• ‘God-breathed’ - human authors were channels of the divine Word.</li> <li>• Reason, experience and tradition should be judged in the light of the Bible, not the other way round.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"> <span style="font-size: 2em; background-color: #4a90e2; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 15px; display: inline-block;">B</span>  <span style="font-size: 1.5em; background-color: #9b59b6; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 10px; display: inline-block;">T</span>  <span style="font-size: 1.5em; background-color: #27ae60; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 10px; display: inline-block;">R</span>  <span style="font-size: 1.5em; background-color: #e91e63; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 10px; display: inline-block;">E</span> </p>	<p>The Bible's teaching is entirely trustworthy. It cannot be expected, however, to provide entirely accurate scientific or historical information since this is not its purpose. Nevertheless, it provides the supreme rule for faith and conduct, to which other ways of ‘knowing’, while important, should be subordinate.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <span style="font-size: 2em; background-color: #4a90e2; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 15px; display: inline-block;">B</span>  <span style="font-size: 1.5em; background-color: #9b59b6; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 10px; display: inline-block;">T</span>   <span style="font-size: 1.2em; background-color: #27ae60; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 8px; display: inline-block;">R</span>  <span style="font-size: 1.2em; background-color: #e91e63; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 8px; display: inline-block;">E</span> </p>	<p>The Bible is the essential foundation on which Christian faith and life are built. Its teachings were formed in particular historical and cultural contexts, and must therefore be read in that light. The way to apply biblical teaching in today's very different context is not always obvious or straightforward. Reason is an important (God-given) gift which must be used to the full in this process of interpretation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <span style="font-size: 1.8em; background-color: #4a90e2; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 12px; display: inline-block;">B</span>   <span style="font-size: 1.2em; background-color: #9b59b6; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 8px; display: inline-block;">T</span>  <span style="font-size: 2em; background-color: #27ae60; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 15px; display: inline-block;">R</span>   <span style="font-size: 1.2em; background-color: #e91e63; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 8px; display: inline-block;">E</span> </p>	<p>The Bible's teaching, while foundational and authoritative for Christians, needs to be interpreted by the Church. In practice it is the interpretation and guidance offered by Church leaders and preachers which provides authoritative teaching. Church tradition is of high importance as a practical source of authority.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <span style="font-size: 1.8em; background-color: #4a90e2; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 12px; display: inline-block;">B</span>  <span style="font-size: 1.5em; background-color: #9b59b6; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 10px; display: inline-block;">T</span>  <span style="font-size: 1.2em; background-color: #27ae60; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 8px; display: inline-block;">R</span>   <span style="font-size: 1.2em; background-color: #e91e63; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 8px; display: inline-block;">E</span> </p>	<p>The Bible is one of the main ways in which God speaks to the believer. However, the movement of God's Spirit is free and unpredictable. It is what the Spirit is doing today that is of the greatest importance. The Bible helps to interpret experience, but much stress is placed on spiritual experience itself, which conveys its own compelling authority.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <span style="font-size: 1.8em; background-color: #4a90e2; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 12px; display: inline-block;">B</span>  <span style="font-size: 1.2em; background-color: #9b59b6; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 8px; display: inline-block;">T</span>   <span style="font-size: 1.2em; background-color: #27ae60; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 8px; display: inline-block;">R</span>  <span style="font-size: 2em; background-color: #e91e63; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 15px; display: inline-block;">E</span> </p>	<p>The Bible witnesses to God's revelation of himself through history and supremely through Jesus Christ. The Bible is not itself that revelation, but only the witness to it. Christians must therefore discern where and to what extent they perceive the true gospel witness in the various voices of the Bible. Reason, tradition and experience are as important as the biblical witnesses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <span style="font-size: 1.5em; background-color: #4a90e2; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 10px; display: inline-block;">B</span>   <span style="font-size: 1.2em; background-color: #9b59b6; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 8px; display: inline-block;">T</span>  <span style="font-size: 1.5em; background-color: #27ae60; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 10px; display: inline-block;">R</span>   <span style="font-size: 1.5em; background-color: #e91e63; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 10px; display: inline-block;">E</span> </p>	<p>The Bible is a diverse and often contradictory collection of documents from various times and places. The Christian's task is to follow the example of Christ. However, in today's era it is simply not possible to obey all the Bible's teachings since these ...often represent the ideology of particular groups or classes in an ancient and foreign culture. Reason and experience provide much more important tools for faith and practice.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <span style="font-size: 1.2em; background-color: #4a90e2; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 8px; display: inline-block;">B</span>   <span style="font-size: 1.2em; background-color: #9b59b6; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 8px; display: inline-block;">T</span>  <span style="font-size: 1.5em; background-color: #27ae60; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 10px; display: inline-block;">R</span>   <span style="font-size: 1.5em; background-color: #e91e63; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px 10px; display: inline-block;">E</span> </p>
<p><b>Are you in the same place for all the decisions of your life?</b></p>						