

THE HOLY BIBLE is GOD'S WORD



We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God. The Bible is the oldest and most important book in the world. It is important, not because of its age, but the content. It is God's Word and came to us by inspiration.

2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Thus, any study of our New Life in Christ must begin on the foundation of Scripture. Christ is the center of all Scripture.

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.

The Old Testament looks forward to the Coming of Jesus.

Luke 24:25-27

25 Then He said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory?

27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.

The New Testament tells how Christ fulfilled the Law and the Prophets.

Hebrews 1:1-2

1 GOD, Who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets.

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, Whom He hath appointed Heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds.

Jesus Christ became the "Living Word".

John 1:1-5

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made.

4 In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.

⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

The Bible says of God:

Psalms 107:20 He sent His Word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

Many books tell of man's search for God. Only the Bible tells of God's search for man. When man willfully sinned and tarnished his innocent nature, God did not leave him where he deserved to be left. Rather, God sought out man, desiring to reconcile man to Himself. Throughout all of The Bible we see God seeking man, which ultimately leads to Christ on the cross paying the supreme price so man could be saved. The Bible is God's Book telling this warm and wonderful truth that man can again have fellowship with God and have everlasting life through Jesus Christ. God's Book contains the words of life.

I. THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

The Bible has God for its author and salvation for its truth. There is no error in its content. Composed of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament, the Bible speaks of God's redemptive purposes. The Bible is the Word of God and is sufficient for guiding men to God through Christ by the Holy Spirit.

A. ***The Bible claims to be inspired.*** Some say, "*The Bible contains The Word of God*". This is a subtle attempt to discredit parts of the Bible. The Bible does not contain The Word of God, it IS The Word of God from cover to cover. This fact is forever settled by the words, "***All scripture is given by inspiration of God***".

B. ***How the Bible was written.*** The Holy Spirit moved upon men to speak and write down eternal truths. They were careful to only say what God wanted them to say.

2 Peter 1:16-21

¹⁶ For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

17 For He received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory, This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.

18 And this voice which came from Heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount.

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

They did not rely on their own feelings, but on the facts of prophecy in proclaiming Christ as Saviour and Lord. They were careful not to let their personal prejudice get in the way of what God told them to say.

2 Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

C. **God's Word is eternal.** Jesus said God's Word is so certain and settled that not even the smallest jot of it would pass away. In fact, Jesus noted that it would be easier for the whole universe to disappear than even the smallest jot of it would pass away.

Luke 16:17 And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.

Peter adds under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that God's Word endures forever.

1 Peter 1:23-25

23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

25 But the Word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the Word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

John warns — no one should ever attempt to alter even the smallest part that is written.

Revelation 22:18-19

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the Book of Life, and out of the Holy City, and from the things which are written in this book.

D. Truth is the test.

Time has proved the truth of the Scriptures. Even the severest critics have to admit the wisdom of the Bible. The Bible is truth.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is truth.

Lives have dramatically changed because men have made the Bible their guidebook. But, if God's Word is life changing, it will be because the reader has taken that important leap of faith, believing it is God's eternal Word. Paul said such a leap of faith is what made the difference in the lives of believers in Thessalonica.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

II. THE BIBLE IS POWERFUL

Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Bible has been banned and burned, but it still lives on. Why do evil men hate the Word so much? The answer is simple: it knows too much about them. All the forces of Hell seek to banish the Bible from the earth because it is powerful, showing men the Christ Who can break the strongholds of the devil.

A. The Word is Quick

Socrates said, "*Know thyself.*" And some men have spent lifetimes in such ventures. There is a much faster and a more sure way to see into our inner soul. That is through God's Word. James says that looking into the Word is like looking into a mirror.

James 1:21-25

21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the Word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

In the stories of the Bible and its instructions, we can see ourselves. Paul said all the things that are written in the Old Testament are examples and are written so we might see the results of our disobedience.

1 Corinthians 10:6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

To see yourself quickly, look into the Word.

B. **The Word is Power.** To be armed with the Word is to have the most powerful tool. James said the Word is able to save our souls.

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your souls.

It can save us from the destruction of the evil one. When Paul talks about the Armour of God, the only offensive weapon against Satan is the Word.

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:

Jesus overcame the temptations of the devil in the wilderness by using the Word of God.

Matthew 4:1-11

1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward an hungred.

3 And when the tempter came to Him, he said, If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

4 But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

5 Then the devil taketh Him up into the holy city, and setteth Him on a pinnacle of the temple,

6 And saith unto Him, If Thou be the Son of God, cast Thyself down: for it is written, He shall give His angels charge concerning Thee: and in their hands they shall bear Thee up, lest at any time Thou dash Thy foot against a stone.

7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

8 Again, the devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

9 And saith unto Him, All these things will I give Thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship me.

10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.

11 Then the devil leaveth Him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto Him.

To be weak in the Word is to place ourselves in a vulnerable position with the enemy of our souls.

C. **The word is sharp.** When Jesus sent His twelve disciples on their first preaching tour, He told them these strange words:

Matthew 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

The words of Jesus were so sharp that they divided those who sincerely wanted to know God from those who merely wanted to go along with the crowd. God's Word always separates the true believers from the unbelievers. It is this same sharp Word by which we will be judged.

John 12:48 He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words, hath One that judgeth him: the Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

D. **The Word is to be discerned.** Long ago the prophet Jeremiah observed:

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jesus said the reason our hearts are deceitful is because we choose not to listen to God.

Matthew 13:15 *For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*

Paul adds that sin deceives our hearts so that we cannot discern what is good and what is evil.

Romans 7:11 *For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.*

Lest we despair, there is a way to know our hearts. God's Word exposes our very inner thoughts and intents. When these are exposed, we can take them to Christ for forgiveness and healing.

Romans 15:4 *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

III. THE BIBLE IS PURPOSEFUL

Over fifteen hundred years were taken in writing the Bible. Men from all walks of life, rich and poor, old and young, were moved upon by the Holy Spirit to pen those immortal words. Nothing is wasted, as God says what He means and means what He says. Those things have been written for our hearing. We can glean patience and comfort from the Scriptures.

The Bible has purpose.

A. *It is profitable for doctrine.*

2 Timothy 3:16 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

Doctrine is the foundation stone of our beliefs. If this foundation is wrong or weak, the structure cannot stand. Paul said the Word reveals the great Doctrines of God's redemption plan.

Romans 16:25-26

25 *Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,*

26 *But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:*

He also commended the Thessalonians because they received the Word, not as the word of man, but of God, and built their doctrine upon it.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Jesus says frankly that the Word is the only truth on which we can form our beliefs.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is truth.

B. ***It is profitable for reproof.***

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness;

Being human, excesses occur in our ranks. Thus the Bible is valuable to keep us on the right track. At times we must be reprov'd, just as the Corinthian church needed to receive rebuke from Paul. The things Paul told them were the words of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 14:37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

Pastor Timothy was admonished to proclaim the Word and not be afraid to "reprove, rebuke, and exhort".

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

In God's wisdom and love, He has given us His Word to keep us straight.

C. ***It is profitable for correction.***

Reproof often involves the body of believers, but correction is very personal. We need a course correction from time to time lest our direction lead us away from God rather than to Him. Paul gave such course correction to the Corinthians and boldly states these were God's words, not his own.

1 Corinthians 7:10: And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

We never outgrow our need for course correction. Even the apostle Peter needed some help in this area.

Galatians 2:14: But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

Thank God for His correcting Word that keeps us straight.

D. ***It is profitable for instruction:***

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

How do we live in righteousness? The answer is found in the **Word** of God. Paul tells Timothy that the scripture can make him wise unto salvation.

2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Berea held a special place in the heart of God because it was there the people searched the Scripture daily to receive instructions from God. The Bible says "***They received the Word with all readiness of mind***".

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

IV. THE BIBLE CAN BE UNDERSTOOD

Luke 24:45 Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.

To many, the Bible is a puzzle. Some find it hard reading and thus refuse to spend time with the Word. Most often this is merely an excuse of the carnal man keeping him from the discipline of the Word. The Bible can be understood. However, only a very special group of people can understand the Word.

A. ***It is hidden from the unbeliever.*** Man through his own wisdom does not know God.

1 Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Man through his own wisdom does not know how to save himself. Thus, to the man who does not believe in Christ, the Bible remains a puzzle.

1 Corinthians 1:19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

Only those who are born of the Spirit can understand the Word.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Only those who are born of the spirit can understand the things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

B. **Jesus opens up the Word.** When the two disciples walked with Christ on the road to Emmaus, He opened up the Word to them. Once we walk with Christ and know Him as our Saviour, He does the same for us. Jesus said the Kingdom is a spiritual one, and only spiritual people can know it. Once we are born of the Spirit, however, even a child can understand the Word.

Matthew 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

C. **God's Spirit reveals the Word.** The Bible tells us to be filled with the Spirit:

Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

These are not just idle words. The Holy Spirit has been given to open the Word to us so we can understand it better. The Bible can be understood, but only after we invest our faith in Jesus Christ. Man says "Prove it and I will believe it". God says, "Believe it and I will prove it".

John 16:11-15

11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

13 Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come.

14 He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall shew it unto you.

15 All things that the Father hath are Mine: therefore said I, that He shall take of Mine, and shall shew it unto you.

V. THE BIBLE IS TO BE STUDIED

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

Over 2500 times throughout the Bible, we are told that it is The Word of God. Because of its importance, we must make God's Word as part of our daily diet. It is not enough just to Pray; we must also read the Word. Prayer is our talking to God. The Bible is God talking to us. To neglect either of these spiritual exercises cuts off communication and will bring forth spiritual famines.

A. ***Search the scriptures.*** God has given us a "search warrant" in His Word.

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.

The scriptures testify of Christ and show the way to eternal life. Each word of the Bible is God-breathed, and to ignore its meaning is to ignore our God.

B. ***Have a Ready Answer.***

There are those who challenge our faith. We can always give our testimony, and that has its place. However, the Bible tells us followers of Christ that we must have a ready answer to those who ask for a reason for the hope that lies within us.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

To be a powerful and ready witness, we need to be grounded in God's Word, and to have the ready answer we need at all times.

C. ***Give His Word prominence.*** Paul was careful to write the Thessalonians saying they should read the Word in their worship services.

1 Thessalonians 5:27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.

This was not the only time he made such a request. He also asked the Colossians to do the same.

Colossians 4:16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

God's Word is important in the life of the Church as well as in the life of the individual. Today let us start loving The Word more and giving it first place in our lives.

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