

VI. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE IN MY LIFE!

One of the things which separates Christianity from other "religions" in the world is the claim to the verbal inspiration and absolute written authority of the Word of God referred to as The Bible. The written Word of God is vital to the spiritual growth of a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is seen in many types in the Old Testament and fully revealed in the New Testament. The principals and standards by which a Christian is to live are recorded in the scriptures. The truth found in God's Word is spiritual food for the spirit and soul of man as we will see in this study.

The purpose of this lesson is to enable the new believer to know the basics of the Bible. and how it relates to his or her daily life. As you study the simple truths of the Bible you will learn how its principles can guide every area of your daily walk with the Lord Jesus.

I. The Word of God is involved in Salvation.

A. The scriptures help us to see and admit our sinful condition. Romans 3:23; 3:10;

B. 1 Peter 1:23 states "Being born again by the word of God" God the Holy Spirit uses the written word of God to convict men of sin and draw them to Christ. There is power in the word of God=Hebrews 11:3!

C. Ephesians 2:8-9; "For by grace are ye saved through faith ... " Romans 10: 17; states "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Also consider Hebrews 11:6;

D. James 1:21 states that the word of God is, "able to save your souls." Consider 1 Peter 1:23 also Paul's summary of the gospel contains four parts in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4;

i. "Christ died for our sins" Romans 5:8;

ii. "He was buried" Luke 23:50-53;

iii. "He rose again" Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:20-21;

iv. "According to the scriptures" Matthew 26:56;

II. Since The Word Of God Is Involved In Your Salvation, It Must Be Your Guide In Knowing How To Live Also. To Illustrate:

A. Every major purchase (car, appliance, etc.) is accompanied by an owners manual which tells you how to operate it. If you do not go by the book you will likely have problems. Have you ever heard "When all else fails, read the instructions?"

B. The Bible is God's instruction manual or "owners manual" for you life. God gives

us clear instructions to guide us in living the Christian Life in victory. To do so we must "read the instructions." See James 1:22-25; Psalm 119:105; Psalm 32:8;

C. Remember "THE BIBLE WILL KEEP YOU FROM SIN OR SIN WILL KEEP YOU FROM THE BIBLE" Psalm 119: 11

III. Consider the purpose of the Word of God for a Christian.

A. God's word prepares you for service, "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 6:10-18;

B. The Word of God is spiritual food. Jeremiah 15:16;

i. Milk=1 Peter 2:2;

ii. Honey=Psalm 119:103;

iii. Apples=Proverbs 7:2;

iv. Bread=Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4;

v. Water=Isaiah 55:10-11; Ephesians 5:26;

vi. Meat=Hebrews 5:12-14; I Corinthians 3:1-2;

C. God's Word will keep you clean=Psalm 119:9-11; John 15:3;

IV. The written Word of God is completely reliable!

A. It is very important to understand this fact. All "experiences" are to be judged by an infallible standard which is greater than any experience. The word of God is "more sure" than the physical appearance and audible voice of God states Peter. II Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9;

B. The universe was created by the spoken Word of God.
Genesis 1 :3; Psalm 33:6; Hebrews 11 :3;

V. How do I learn the Bible?

A. The Holy Spirit of God will lead and guide you into all truth. God may use other means to aid in teaching (books, tapes, preachers, etc.) but ultimately, truth is revealed by the Holy Spirit. John 14:26; John 16: 13-15;

B. The Bible is learned by comparing scripture with scripture and relying on The

Holy Spirit to teach you, not your own natural intellect. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God." 1 Corinthians 1:9-16;

VI. Consider This Famous Quote Concerning The Bible:

"The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter.

Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given to you in life, will be open at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents."

VII. A Brief History of the Bible.

A. 39 books in the Old Testament, 27 books in the New Testament=66 total.

B. It was written by the Holy Spirit through more than 40 inspired men of God.
2 Timothy 3:16;

C. It was written over a time span of about 1500 to 1600 years.

D. It is totally accurate in matters of history and prophecy.

E. Not one contradiction .

F. It fits together perfectly as if written by one author.

G. The middle of the Bible is Psalm 118:8. "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." The middle two words in that verse are "The Lord." The Lord is the center of the Bible!

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VIII. Basic Questions.

A. Where should I start reading?

As a young Christian, focus on the primary places which deal with your new relationship with you Heavenly Father. The Gospel of John, The Epistle of 1 John, and Psalm 119 are excellent places to begin.

- i. The Gospel of John is written that you might believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. John 20:31;
- ii. The Epistle of 1 John is written that you might have complete assurance of salvation. 1 John 5: 13;
- iii. Psalm 119 is the greatest chapter in the Bible on a man's love for the Word of God.

B. What if I find something I don't understand?

- i. Don't get upset about it. God will reveal it to you in time---when you are ready. John 16:12;
- ii. Be sure you live what you do understand. God will not give you more then you are capable of handling. as you put into practice the things you are learning, God will entrust you with more.

Note:

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS Lesson 1 ---- The Word of God,
appears on next page

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Lesson- 1 ---- The Word Of God

1. The Word of God is active in our salvation. Briefly explain how the following verses apply to this.
 1. I Peter 1 :23;
 2. Romans 10:17;
 3. James 1:21;
2. What are the three key elements of the gospel according to 1 Corinthians 15: 1-4;?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
3. What are the major purposes of the Word of God in the Christian Life? (The answers are in this study.)
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
4. From 2 Timothy 3:16-17, we understand that all scripture is profitable for what?

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