

Lesson 1: The Word of God

INTRODUCTION

The Bible is God's Word to man. It reveals the plan of God for all of mankind. It reveals the nature of God, the sinfulness of man, the plan of salvation in Christ, the prospects of heaven for the saved, the doom of the unsaved in hell, guidelines for the Christian to follow in order to live and act as he should. It is God's word to us. It is the most important object we have on this earth. We are to **love it, learn it, and live it.**

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the Christian with the basics of the Bible and how it relates to our everyday life, so we can begin to understand how its principles are to guide every facet of our walk with Jesus Christ.

OUTLINE

I. The Word of God is active in salvation

The Word of God is what convicts the lost soul. Whether if its in the spoken word, written word, or even put to music, the Word of God is the only thing that the Holy Spirit uses to convict the lost soul.

- A. I Peter 1:23 says a man is born again *"by the Word of God"*. The Word of God is the agent, which brings about the new birth.
- B. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith..."* Romans 10:17 says, *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*
- C. James 1:21 says the Word of God is: *"...is able to save your souls."*
- D. Paul's summary of the gospel contains four parts in *I Corinthians 15:1* *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that (1)Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 (2)And that he was buried, (3)and that he rose again the third day (4)according to the scriptures."*
 - 1. Jesus Christ died for our sins
 - 2. Was buried
 - 3. Rose from the dead
 - 4. ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES.
- E. You must believe what the Bible says about sin, your condition, and God's plan of salvation in order to be saved. You must realize that you are a lost sinner deserving of Hell *Romans 3:23* *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;* you can't save yourself, and that only through Jesus perfect sacrifice of His shed blood covering our sins can we accept the free gift of salvation. Only the Word of God has the power to convict a lost soul and to save.

II. Since you are saved by the Word of God, it must be your absolute, infallible guide to tell you how to live

- A. Every major purchase (car, appliance, etc) is accompanied by an owner's manual, which tells you how to operate it. If you don't go by the book, it won't work. The Bible is God's "owner's manual" for your life. God would not save you and call you to service without clear, exact directions; but you must "go by the book." Titus 2:12; Joshua 1:8; Deuteronomy 6:2-9

The Word of God teaches us how we are to live, there isn't a situation in our lives that's not covered in the Bible. It is to be our rule book, and our measuring stick.

III. What is the purpose of the Word of God for a Christian?

- A. The Word of God equips you for service, it tells us how to grow spiritually so that we may be used by the Lord. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Timothy 2:15
- B. The Word of God sustains you. This is illustrated in the Bible as "Spiritual Food." It is a complete and balanced diet. Job 23:12; Jeremiah 15:16

- Milk = 1 Peter 2:2
- Honey = Psalm 119:103; Proverbs 16:24
- Bread = Luke 4:4
- Water = Isaiah 55:10-11; Ephesians 5:26
- Meat = Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Corinthians 3:1-2

We need the spiritual food contained in the Word of God to nourish our Spirit. The Word of God tells us that we are spiritually dead before we are saved. Once we get saved we are born again spiritually, the only way to grow spiritually is to eat regularly from the Word of God. Our spirit need food to grow just like our physical body needs food to continue to function. Its possible that some of our problems are caused by our spirit being starved to death because we never feed it. If you only ate Sunday morning, evening, and Wednesday night could your physical body make it?

- C. The Word of God keeps you clean to please God. Psalm 119:9-11; John 15:3

We must remember that God is Holy. If we are to have fellowship with Him we must remain clean from sin. The Word of God can and will clean us but we must first read it, study it, and hide it in our hearts.

IV. Is the Bible completely reliable?

- A. It is more sure than the audible voice of God. This is a very VERY critical point. It must be understood that all "experiences" are to be judged by an infallible standard that is greater than any experience. Peter said the Word of God was MORE SURE than the physical appearance and audible voice of God. 2 Peter 1:16-21 compared with Matthew 17:1-9

We are to trust the Word of God more than any experience. We must remember that Satan is very powerful, he will during the last days perform many miracles that will deceive the world. Only by comparing an experience to the Word of God can we tell if it was from God or the Devil.

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

The power of the Word of God is amazing, if the Word of God can make everything we've ever seen or touched it can certainly direct our lives.

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 instruments to aid in teaching (books, tapes, preachers, etc...), but ultimately, truth is revealed by the Holy Spirit. John 14:26; John 16:13-15

The Holy Spirit helps us to understand, and remember the Word of God. We must remember though that the Holy Spirit is God, and cannot stand sin. If we have sin in our lives how can we expect to hear the Holy Spirit guide us?

- B. The Bible is learned by comparing scripture with scripture, relying on God's Spirit to teach you and not your own natural intellect. 1 Corinthians 2:9-16

VI. A brief history of the Bible

- A. A total of 66 books.
- B. Written by more than 40 authors.
- C. Written over a time span of about 2,000 years
- D. Totally accurate in matters of history and prophecy.
- E. Not one contradiction.

VII. Basic questions

- A. Where should I start reading?
As a young Christian, focus on the primary places, which deal with your new relationship with your Heavenly Father. The Gospel of John, the Epistle of I John, and Psalm 119 are excellent places to begin.
 - 1. The Gospel of John is written that you might believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. John 20:31
 - 2. The Epistle of I John is written that you might have complete assurance of Salvation. I John 5:13
 - 3. 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?
 - 1. Don't get upset about it. God will reveal it to you in time – when you are ready. John 16:12
 - 2. Be sure you live what you do understand! God will not give you more than you are capable of handling. As you put into practice the things you are learning, God will entrust you with more.

Questions:

- 1. The Word of God is active in our salvation. Briefly explain how the following verses apply to this.
 - A. I Peter 1:23
 - B. Romans 10
 - C. James 1:21

2. What are the four key elements of the gospel according to I Corinthians 15:1-4?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
3. What are the major purposes of the Word of God in the Christian Life?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
4. From II Timothy 3:16-17, we understand that all scripture is profitable for the following:
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
5. The Bible is likened to God's "owner Manual" for you life. Briefly explain why this is.
6. Your Physical body needs food in order to function properly. Your spiritual body needs food also. Give two scripture references that show us this.
7. According to II Peter 1:16-21, The Bible is _____ than the _____ of God. The Bible judges all of man's _____ because it is an _____.
8. According to Genesis 1 and 2, man's theory of evolution is a lie. What do we learn from the following verses regarding this subject?
 - A. Hebrews 11:3
 - B. Psalm 33:6
9. The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth. The Bible is also learned by _____ scripture with _____ and depending on God's Spirit to teach you.
10. According to I Corinthians 2:9-16, why can't unsaved people properly understand what the Bible teaches?
11. The middle of the Bible is _____. It is no coincidence that the middle two words of this verse are "_____".
12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key verses: II Peter 1:21, Psalm 119:9, II Timothy 3:16-17