

THE MOST IMPORTANT BOOK IN THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE

(Not entirely original with me)

1 Corinthians 2:9-10; Psalm 119:9-11; Matthew 5:18-19; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:18-21

Introduction: The Christian reads a lot of different materials most are good for him/her but the Bible is the most important book in the Christian's life for it teaches the things a person cannot learn about life and death apart from God's revelation in His Bible. The revelation of God's Word/Bible reveals the truth about God as a trinity, about the things of man (origin, make up, fall, sin, needs), about the physical world and it's creation, about Satan and the forces of evil at work in the world, about God's plan of salvation for man through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ, about the person and work of the Holy Spirit, about man's natural spiritual blindness and his/her spiritual condition in sin. The Bible is a book that only God could write and one that man would not write if he/she could.

I. GOD'S WORD IS INSPIRED

1. It is the inspired revelation from God (God-breathed)

- Human authors composed and recorded without error God's message to mankind in the words of their original writings.
- The Bible is of inexhaustible depth, continuing from Genesis through Revelation, faithful in presenting the truth and refuses to hide the sins of those who helped write it, it applies to all generations, to all the world, has power to change individuals, even whole societies and has withstood one attack after another for generations, yet has not been destroyed.
- Jesus spoke often about God's Word and its importance.
 - Authoritative, Reliable, Final, Sufficient, Indestructible, Unified, Clear, Historical, Inerrant, Infallible and Factual.
- *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

2. Every single verse from Genesis 1 to the last verse in Revelation is inspired and profitable.

- The whole Bible is "true, tried, perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, more desirable than gold, and sweeter than honey (*Psalm 19:7-9*)
- *Matthew 5:17-18; 22:31; Galatians 3:16*

3. The Bible is profitable to the Christian since every word is the product of an all-wise, all-knowing, all-powerful and loving God.

- It is profitable for/in teaching.
 - *1 Timothy 1:10; 4:6, 16; 6:1, 3; 2 Timothy 4:3; Titus 1:9; 2:1, 7, 10*
 - What is taught to the Christian and what the Christian teaches must be in accord with God's Word.
- It is profitable for reproof.
 - Personal conviction through exposure to the truth.
 - The Bible reproofs and exposes one to the many ways he/she violates the plans and principles of God in every part of one's life.
 - Once one has been reproofed and experience conviction, it is decision time and one can move toward God and respond to His corrections and training or one can rebel and resist.

- It is profitable for correction.
 - It sets things straight, stresses the restorative work and capacity of God's Word and points to the course necessary to get one back on the "straight and narrow."
- It is profitable in training in righteousness.
 - It helps train and develop one's character, strength and skills suitable for living the Christ-like life.
 - Such things as Bible study, meditation and prayer.

4. God inspired the Bible, His Word, for a specific reason.

- The purpose of God, personally, inspiring His Word was that His Children might be adequate, equipped for every good work. *2 Timothy 3:17; Romans 8:28-29; Ephesians 2:10*
- God wants to equip believers for a life of good works, equipping the believer to produce righteousness and service rather than self-works, indulgence.
- God's goal in giving mankind (US) His Word and the goal in the Christian's life in studying and knowing God's Word is to thoroughly fit the believer into becoming fully competent servants for every kind of good work in the midst of this dark, sinful world.

5. God inspired the Bible His way, nobody else helped in any way.

- *2 Peter 1:20-21*
- The believer's faith does not stand on some human being's cleverly devised ideas or fables.
- The believer's faith is grounded on the marvelous revelation of God in His Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ and in the written Word of God.
- God did use certain men in the production of the Bible, but He directed what was written through His Holy Spirit by moving the human authors along the way God wanted, thus the will of God's human authors never directed any of the writings of the bible and the Holy Spirit was the ultimate source which ensured the accuracy of what they wrote in every way.

6. God does not reveal everything that He could for many things He has chosen to keep to Himself, however the Bible does cover all that mankind needs for life and godliness through its revelation of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- *2 Peter 1:3-4*
- God's Word covers everything pertaining to life and godliness that man needs to know about, nothing is missing.

II. GOD'S WORD IS ALIVE AND POWERFUL

1. 1 Peter 1:23

- God's Word regenerates and changes the lives of believers as it reveals the wisdom of God and brings believers into a vital relationship with Him.
- *Romans 12:2; Hebrews 4:12*

2. God's Word is perfect, without defect.

- It is without blemish, complete, pure, tried and therefore true.
 - *Psalm 19:7*
- It is uncontaminated, flawless.
 - *Psalm 12:6*

- It is thoroughly tested and found flawless through testing.
- *Psalm 119:140*
- It declares its own inerrant and unadulterated character, unblemished by the thoughts and weaknesses of mankind.
- *Psalm 19:8-9; John 17:17; James 1:18*

3. God's Word is sure and trustworthy.

- It is reliable, trustworthy with the inherent capacity to impart God's wisdom to the simple, to those who come to Him in childlike openness rather than depend on any human wisdom.
- *Psalm 19:7*

4. God's Word is right, righteous.

- God's Word enlightens and brings people into a right relationship with God, the God for whom mankind was created.
- *Psalm 19:8-9*

5. God's Word is great and precious, more valuable than gold, and sweeter than honey.

- *2 Peter 1:4; Psalm 19:10*

6. God's Word is God's channel of faith and deliverance.

- It is through His Word that God builds one's faith and is able to bring believers into the power of His life through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ and by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- *Romans 10:17; 2 Peter 1:4; Psalm 119:9-11*

7. God's Word is inexhaustible.

- No matter how deep a person digs into God's Word, the surface is barely scratched for it is the revelation of the infinite God to limited, finite people.
- *Ephesians 3:2-8*
- How many Christians have remarked, "You know, I have read that passage many times and each time I got something different from it..."

CONCLUSION:

1. Every Christian needs to work toward having a mind like that of Christ and living a life like that which Jesus Christ lived.
2. God has provided the resource for the believer to think like Christ and to live like Christ and that resource is THE BIBLE, God's Word.
3. The Bible teaches the believer things which he/she just cannot learn about life, God, death, eternity which he/she just cannot learn anywhere else.
4. Because of what it is and what it does, the Bible is the most important book of the Christian's life.
5. Christian, how often do you STUDY God's Word? Is your life planned according to God's Word?