

1982 Convention Message

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## The Bible - Our Treasure

Copy ~~John~~ Romans 15:4 & John 20:31

There are three specific ways God has chosen to reveal Himself to man. David states, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork." All nature speaks to man revealing a loving heavenly Father who has provided every good and perfect gift for the benefit of the man He created.

God ~~has given~~ <sup>gave</sup> a more specific revelation of Himself to man in the person of His Son, <sup>who became flesh & dwelt among men</sup> Jesus Christ revealed the Father to man throughout His ministry, but we who live after the time He was on earth would not know about this revelation were it not for <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ written Word - the Bible. The Word reveals to us the plan & purpose of <sup>God from the beginning</sup> ~~the~~.

Christ is the Bible's fulness, the Bible's focus, the Bible's center. The O. T. conceals, unfolds, promises, pictures, prophesies, & symbolizes Christ. The N. T. reveals Jesus as the Redeeming Saviour, the Risen Lord, the Returning Bridegroom, & the Reigning King of kings and Lord of lords.

The message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is woven throughout the pages of the Bible.

Our purpose in studying God's Word is to receive a greater revelation into the Person, nature, & character of God and to learn how to become like Him in all His beauty and holiness.

The Bible's standard of holy living, of justice, and mercy has had a strong moral influence in the world, awakening man's conscience, elevating womanhood, & sanctifying family life. It condemns falsehood, lying, cheating, covetousness, hatred, murder, impurity, & idolatry in every form. To a great

extent even the laws of the land are based on the <sup>commandments & instructions</sup> laws ~~that~~ <sup>gave to Moses for</sup> ~~by~~ God ~~for~~ Israel.

The Bible is the most quoted book in the world — by all classes, creeds, & persuasions. Man cannot get away from its wisdom, knowledge, & influence.

The Bible is the most loved book in the world among all classes & all nations. Individuals who hungered for its message <sup>have</sup> sold their possessions or walked long distances to obtain <sup>a</sup> copy or hear it read. Men have died to preserve and share its truth.

Yet, the Bible is the most hated book in the world. Down through the history of Christendom, men have sought to destroy it & to forbid its possession.

Since that far-off day when Jehoiakin, King of Judah, burned the prophecies of Jeremiah which had been penned by Baruch, Satan has tried to discredit, ~~to~~ disprove, ~~to~~ and destroy the Word of God, but it has survived every attack and endured the tests of time.

The Word of God is a mirror providing us with a glimpse of our inner selves. Paul informed Timothy that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God & is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for unrighteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Through God's Word we may see reflections of our spiritual life. What a beautiful way God has of revealing areas of our lives where adjustments should be made. The encouraging fact is that we not only see our shortcomings & weaknesses, but also the remedy for them.

What place should the Bible have in our lives? Since it

is God's message to us, it should have an <sup>important</sup> ~~invaluable~~ place in ~~our~~ <sup>the</sup> thoughts, the memory, the conscience, & the affections. David said, "Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee."

The Bible deserves our attention, our reverence, our faith, & our obedience. We can place our trust unconditionally in its promises since God never lies, errs, or changes. The Bible merits our deepest devotion & should be prized more than our necessary food.

Unfortunately, many Christians read the Bible mainly out of a sense of duty. They have not yet discovered the great joy that fellowship with God through His Word can bring.

The society in which we live is characterized by haste. Every activity seems to have a built-in time limit. Women, especially, with the ~~heavy~~ exacting responsibilities of maintaining a home, providing meals & clothing for a family, caring for children, & sometimes with the added duties of a job or career, have problems making time for reading & studying of the Bible.

For many people, personal Bible study is a real battle. The distractions are many. Phone calls, visitors, emergencies, & even routine responsibilities encroach on the time set aside for Bible Study. How easy it is to take the line of least resistance, Satan will use every device possible to keep us from studying the Word of God, for he is aware of its great power & authority.

The study of God's Word can be an exciting experience. It contains stories of every description: Romance war, adventure

poverty, wealth, tragedy, & happiness are only a few of the topics covered in this marvelous Book. These subjects are woven into a beautiful pattern of spiritual truth. A careful study of this pattern reveals the most interesting and exciting events in the history of man. The Bible is the most profound book in the world, for it contains the mysteries of the universe as well as the deep things of God. Yet the Bible message is so simple, a child can understand & enjoy its delightful stories. Women ~~can~~<sup>should</sup> be filled with anticipation as they search the Scriptures. Truth more precious than emeralds, diamonds, or gold are waiting to be discovered ~~through eager and~~ sincere Bible Study. Each encounter will reinforce old truths and lead to the discovery of new ~~thoughts & ideas~~<sup>nuggets of truth</sup>, ~~ideas~~<sup>nuggets of truth</sup>.

Bible Study can be greatly enriched by approaching it prayerfully, reverently, & with an attitude of expectancy. The special aid available in the Person of the Holy Spirit will bring illumination & clarity to the study of the Word. Without the Spirit's help our growth in knowledge and understanding of spiritual things will be greatly limited. John describes this area of the Holy Spirit's ministry: "Howbeit when <sup>he</sup> the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth." However, the Holy Spirit cannot do it all. He can only assist us as we apply ourselves to the study of the Word.

It may be that in order to study the Bible as we should, we will have to examine our priorities. As followers of Christ, the study of God's Word should occupy a high position on our scale of values. As ~~an~~<sup>he</sup> individual gets into Bible study, ~~then~~ ~~and~~ grows to love God's Word, reading it will rise to a

height on a priority list. Bible <sup>reading</sup> will become a cherished & spiritually uplifting event of the day. Meditating in the Word will become a delightful experience.

The Word of God fortifies the mind, gives control over temptations and emotions, strengthens the will, & brings growth in grace & the knowledge of God. It will bring the solution to every problem and answer perplexing questions.

A power-conscious world is threatened by the growing energy shortages. Without the power provided by energy, industry would come to a standstill and man would face a crisis that defies solution.

For Christians the Bible is an inexhaustible source of spiritual power. It provides power to be born again, power over sin, power to do God's will, power to win the lost.

~~An unknown author penned these graphic words:~~

~~The Word of the Lord is a crushing hammer; a devouring flame, A life-giving force; A saving power;~~  
The Word of God uses many symbols that are descriptive of its application to the needs of man.

The Word of God is <sup>called</sup> a Lamp, a Light, a Sword, a fire, a hammer, seed, bread, milk, meat, honey, water, a mirror, a discerner. All these represent the way God's Word can meet our spiritual needs. It is the Word of Life, the pattern for living, the way to heaven.

An unknown author penned these graphic words:

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"Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read" Is. 34:16

"And it shall be with (you) & (you) shall read therein all the days of your life; that you may learn to fear the Lord your God, to keep all the words of my law to do them" (De. 17:19).

"Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; & they are they which testify of me." (John 5:39).

"Study to show thy self approved, a workman that ~~thou~~ needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth" (Psalm 119:103).

1. "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; & thy word was unto me the joy & rejoicing of mine heart"

(Eze. 2:8)

"The word nigh thee, even in thy mouth, & in my heart"

Rom. 10:8

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet & a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105)

"How love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day" (Ps. 119:97).