

The Bible is the Word of God

2 Timothy 2:15

INTRODUCTION:

A. Lesson Texts:

1. **2 Timothy 2:15** – “Study to show thyself approved to God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
2. **Matthew 5:6** – “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

B. The Bible is the Mind of God in print.

C. The Bible represents the strongest appeal of any book ever written.

1. It is the common repository of faith, strength, comfort, and courage of all mankind.
2. It imparts guidance and consolation to all people, regardless of their station in life.
3. It exerts its magnetic influence which in turn draws men irresistibly to it.
4. It is indeed the Book of God and the Book from God. It is the Word of the God Who is the God of the Word.

WHY THE BIBLE DESERVES OUR INTEREST

A. Solomon wrote in **Ecclesiastes 12:12** – “. . . Of making many books there is no end . . . “

1. In a world filled with books, the Bible stands alone as the Book of the world.
2. It is indeed the Book of Books.
 - a. **George Bernard Shaw** – “The Bible is more up to date than the morning newspapers.”
 - b. **Patrick Henry** – “Here is a book worth more than all others ever printed.”
 - c. **John Adams** – “The Bible is the best book in the world.”
 - d. When **Sir Walter Scott** lay dying, he asked a friend to read to him. His friend, scanning the 20,000 volumes in Scott’s great library, asked, “What book would you like?” “Need you ask? There is but one Book.”
 - e. For this reason, the Bible is perennially the world’s best seller.

B. The Bible is a universal Book, having its appeal to all men everywhere.

1. Though written in the East, it is perfectly suited to the needs of the Western world.
2. Its authors were mainly Jews, but it has equal appeal to the Arab, Egyptian, Englishman, African, American . . . and men of every race or nationality.
3. It is the book of all nations . . . for the hope of those nations . . . and the hope of all the world.

C. The Bible is a timeless and eternal book.

1. The oldest books of the Bible were written some 1500 years before Christ, or some 3500 years ago.
 2. While a product of antiquity, its message is as fresh and as meaningful as ever.
 3. Though written in an age of gross ignorance, the Bible contains the profound wisdom for our modern computerized age.
 4. The Bible claims to be eternal in nature. It sets forth its own defense.
 - a. **Isaiah 40:8** – “The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”
 - b. **Matthew 24:35** – “. . . My words will by no means pass away.”
 - c. **1 Peter 1:25** – “. . . But the word of the Lord endures forever.”
- D. As a literary composition, the Bible surpasses every book known to man.
1. **Rosseau** – “Pursue the books of philosophers with all their pomp of diction; how meager, how contemptible when compared with the Scriptures. The majesty of the Scriptures strike me with admiration.”
 2. **Charles Dickens** – “The New Testament is the very best book ever was or ever will be known to the world.”
 3. **John Ruskin** – “Whatever merit there is in anything I have written is due simply to the fact that when I was a child my mother daily read me a part of the bible and daily made me learn a part of it by heart.”
 4. The Bible contains history . . . poetry . . . drama . . . prose . . . parables . . . and romance of unequalled beauty.
- E. The Bible is indispensable to the spiritual, moral, cultural, and social needs of the human race.
1. **Matthew Arnold** – “To the Bible men will return, because they cannot do without it.”
 2. **Immanuel Kant** – “The existence of the Bible as a book for the people is the greatest benefit which the human race has ever experienced.
 3. The human soul instinctively craves the light of the Word of God, and indeed cannot properly do without it.
- F. The Bible is the Basis of all good government.
1. **George Washington** – “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.”
 2. **Queen Victoria** – “That book accounts for the supremacy of England.”
 3. **Andrew Jackson** (Old Hickory) – “That book, sir, is the rock on which our republic stands.”
 4. **Horace Greeley** – “It is impossible to enslave mentally or socially a Bible-reading people. The principles of the Bible are ground work of human wisdom.”
 5. **Thomas Huxley** – “The Bible is the Magna Charta of the poor and oppressed. The human race is not in a position to dispense with it.”

6. Every President of the United States takes his oath of office with his hand placed on the Bible.
 7. When a king of England is installed, the Archbishop takes a Bible from the altar and places it in his hands with these words: “Our gracious king, we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing the world affords. Here is the wisdom. This is the royal law. These are the lively oracles of God.”
- G. The Bible is never read sincerely without great benefit to its reader.
1. **Daniel Webster** – “If there is anything in my thoughts or style to commend, the credit is due to my parents for instilling in me an early love for the Scriptures.”
 2. **Robert E. Lee** – “In all my perplexities and distresses, the Bible has never failed to give me light and strength.”
 3. **Daniel Webster** – “I have read it through many times, and I pity the man who cannot find in it a rich supply of thought and rule of conduct.”
 4. **Abraham Lincoln** – “I am profitably engaged in reading the bible. Take all this book upon reason that you can, and the balance by faith and you will live and die a better man.”
- H. No person is well informed, however thoroughly educated, without a knowledge of the Bible.
1. **Dr. William Lyon Phelps** – “I thoroughly believe in a university education; but I believe a knowledge of the Bible without a college education is more valuable than a college course without the Bible.”
 2. The Bible educates for now . . . and eternity.

THE BIBLE IS THE BOOK OF THE GOD

- A. The Bible extends to us claims of being God’s inspired revelation to man.
1. The Bible claims to be God’s inspired revelation to man. Nothing is affirmed with greater clarity or repetition in the Bible than that the Bible is inspired of God. It is the mind of God revealed to the mind of man.
 2. The Bible is therefore styled or referred to as:
 - a. The “Word of God.” **Ephesians 6:17**
 - b. “The oracles of God.” **1 Peter 4:11**
 - c. “The writing of God.” **Exodus 32:16**
 - d. “The word of grace.” **Acts 20:32**
 - e. “The word of truth.” **James 1:18**
 3. Inspired men, without hesitation, extended the claim that they received their information directly from God. Two examples:
 - a. Jeremiah asserted twenty times that “the word of the Lord came unto me.”
 - b. Ezekiel did so forty-six times.

4. Much of the Old Testament is composed of numerous direct quotations from God.
 - a. Almost half (48%) of the Book of Exodus is composed of direct quotations from God, and the expression, “God spoke these words” occurs 101 times in that book.
 - b. In **Exodus 20:1**, Moses affirmed that “God spoke these words.”
 - c. **Exodus 24:4** – “Moses wrote all the words of the Lord.”
 - d. In **Exodus 25:1**, Moses declared that “These are the words which the Lord has commanded.”
5. David said in **2 Samuel 23:2** – The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was in my tongue.”
6. Isaiah wrote in **Isaiah 1:2** – “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord has spoken . . .”
7. Paul affirmed that he wrote by divine inspiration.
 - a. **1 Corinthians 2:10** – “But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of Go”
 - b. **Galatians 1:11-12** – “But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.
For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.
 - c. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – “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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
8. In **Revelation 1:1**, John said that what he wrote was “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants — things which must shortly take place . . .”
9. Many passages of Scripture reveal that God spoke through inspired men to reveal His will.
 - a. **Jeremiah 1:7** – “But the LORD said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak.”
 - b. **Ezekiel 2:7** – “You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or whether they refuse, for they are rebellious.”
 - c. **Luke 1:70** – “As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began.”
 - d. **John 17:8** – “For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

- e. **1 Corinthians 2:13** – “These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”
 - f. **1 Corinthians 11:23** – “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you . . .”
 - g. **1 Corinthians 14:37** – “anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.
 - h. **2 Peter 1:21** – “For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
10. Three excellent attitudes toward the Bible:
1. God said it. I believe it. And, that settles it.
 2. God said it. That settles it. And, I believe it.
 3. Let the Bible be your guide, and success will be your future.
- B. All evidence demonstrates that the records found in the Bible are completely trustworthy. This is true because of at least four things:
1. The writers themselves are completely trustworthy. Practically all of them were eye-witnesses to the events about which they wrote.
 2. Writers of the Bible were persons of unimpeachable character so that they would not intentionally misrepresent the things about which they wrote.
 3. The motives of the writers were pure so as to instill in mankind:
 - a. Perfect righteousness
 - b. Truth
 - c. Virtue
 - d. Purity
 - e. Honesty
 4. They were willing to suffer severely in order to give testimony to the truths they wrote.
- C. Human intelligence and skill alone could not possibly have produced the Bible. This is evident in the fact that men have not been able to produce a book that holds a candle to the Bible.
1. Consider the marvelous unity of the Bible.
 - a. Its 66 books were written by some 40 writers over a period of some 1600 years . . . Some 16 centuries.
 1. These men lived at different periods of time.
 2. They were from different backgrounds.
 3. They spoke different languages.
 - b. Among the writers of the Bible we find:
 1. Kings
 2. Shepherds
 3. Prophets
 4. Priests

5. Statesmen
 6. Fishermen
 7. Unlearned men
 8. Profoundly wise men
 9. Apostles
 10. Tax agents
 11. Military leaders
 12. Poets
 13. Scribes
 14. A doctor
 15. A tentmaker
 16. Slaves and prisoners
2. Consider also the variety of conditions under which these men wrote:
 - a. Some in palaces.
 - b. Some in prisons.
 - c. Some in exile.
 - d. Some in captivity.
 3. In the Bible we find a wide variety of materials and subjects, and yet not one single contradiction . . . not one!
 - a. History
 - b. Biography
 - c. Autobiography
 - d. Philosophy
 - e. Proverbs
 - f. Oratory
 - g. Psalms
 - h. Hymns
 - i. Poetry
 - j. Sermons
 - k. Parables
 - l. Doctrinal discussions
 - m. Civil legislation
 - n. Prophecy
 - o. Romance
 - p. Drama
 - q. Direction for worship
 - r. Letters, both general and personal
 4. When all of these factors are weighed, it must be admitted that the Bible was **written by one hand and produced by one mind.**
 5. **The Bible is an intelligent book . . . from an intelligent God . . . to an intelligent people . . . give to be read, understood, and obeyed.**

CONCLUSION:

- A. The Bible contains what God wants each of us to know. It deserves to be read and studied in view of eternity.
- B. Are you a student of the Holy Scriptures?
- C. Are you obedient to God's will for your life?
- D. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**