

Introduction:

Throughout history, God has given every individual a chance to accept His eternal plan of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. Sadly most people have rejected Him, and will, therefore remain separated from God for all eternity in Hell. Thus accepting Jesus Christ as your Personal Savior is the most significant decision you could ever make.

Most of us have made a profession of faith and have accepted Jesus as our personal Savior, but sadly most of us also have not made Christ our Lord. The difference is tremendous. Jesus **MUST** be the Lord of our lives if we are to have a successful Christian life. He **MUST** be our first priority, our final authority, our strength, our Lord!

These Lessons we're about to start will show us how to make Jesus both our Lord AND Savior.

Lesson 1: The Word of God

“What is the significance of the Bible in *my* Life?”

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.

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 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Deuteronomy 6:2 That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon

thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

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 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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

*Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with **truth**, and having on the breastplate of **righteousness**; 15 And your feet shod with the **preparation of the gospel of peace**; 16 Above all, taking the shield of **faith**, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of **salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**: 18 Praying always with all **prayer** and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all **perseverance** and supplication for all saints;*

II Timothy 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- 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 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Milk = 1 Peter 2:2 *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word,*

that ye may grow thereby:

Honey = *Psalm 119:103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

Honey = *Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.*

Bread = *Luke 4:4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.*

Water = *Isaiah 55:10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing hereto I sent it.*

Water = *Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

Meat = *Hebrews 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of **use** have their senses **exercised** to discern both good and evil.*

Meat = *1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.*

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 BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. 10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. 11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

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.

*II Peter 1:16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 **We have also a more sure word of prophecy;** whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

compared with:

Matthew 17:1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. 3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. 4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. 5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. 6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. 7 And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. 8 And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only. 9 And as they

came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

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 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

Psalms 33:6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

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 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.

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.

I Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

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.
- F. Fits together perfectly as if written by one man.

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 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

2. The Epistle of I John is written that you might have complete assurance of Salvation

I John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

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 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

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.

Note to remember: All “experiences” are to be judged by the infallible standard, which is greater than any experience.

Notable Quotable: “*You show me what kind of shape your Bible is in and I'll show you what kind of shape you're life is in*”

Notable Quotable: “*The Word of God will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Word of God.*”

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. We will learn in #4 that 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

Note: Many popular attitudes about the Bible are:

- (1) The Bible is just another religious book written by men

- (2) The Bible can only be understood by the “Clergy” or by years of formal education.
- (3) In order to understand the true meaning of the scriptures, you must study Greek and Hebrew.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these attitudes are wrong and why.