

WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

I. **It's purpose.**

- A. Everything God does or gives is with a purpose.
- B. There is no wasted effort with God and the same hold true for the Bible - it was given for a purpose.
- C. James 1:21 - it was given for the purpose of saving souls..
- D. In God's word we find His will for mankind.
 - 1. There is no other source of information for this than God's word.
 - 2. It has been one time for all time delivered to mankind (Jude 3).
- E. Long ago, Jesus had a conversation with a leader of the Jews named Nicodemus.
 - 1. In that conversation, Jesus told Nicodemus twice that he had to be born again (John 3:3, 5).
 - 2. How is one born again?
 - 3. Only the Bible gives us that answer (1 Peter 1:23).
- F. One is placed in the kingdom or church when he/she is saved (Acts 2:47).
- G. One is saved by baptism (1 Peter 3:20-21).
- H. Only the Bible reveals this to us because its purpose is to save souls.

II. **It's power.**

- A. The Bible contains the gospel message of Jesus Christ.
- B. This gospel message is God's power to save (Romans 1:16).
 - 1. We noticed that its purpose is to save mankind.
 - 2. Here we see it is powerful enough to do that.
 - 3. Not only that, it is the only power to save.
- C. It is also powerful enough to cause us to grow spiritually (1 Peter 2:2).
 - 1. You and I are commanded to grow in grace and knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18).
 - 2. The Bible is the only book that brings that type knowledge to us, thus it has the power to make us grow.
- D. It has the power to strengthen us as well (Acts 20:32).
 - 1. The word "able" is the same Greek word as found in Romans 1:16 where it is translated "power."
 - 2. Studying God's word allows us to become strong enough to handle the problems life throws at us.
- E. That same verse teaches us that it is powerful enough to give us an inheritance with the saints.
 - 1. This, again, is a reference to the saving power of the Bible as well as its purpose.
 - 2. This inheritance is heaven and Peter describes it this way...(1 Peter 1:3-4).
- F. Only the Bible has the power to do these things for us.

III. **It's potential.**

- A. Sin is devastating.
 - 1. It separates from God (Isaiah 59:1-2).
 - 2. It brings about death (Romans 6:23).

3. It truly is a killer and people are dying every day from it.
- B. Because of this, we should do all that we can to avoid.
- C. The word potential is defined as “possible, capable of being or becoming.”
- D. Only God’s word has the potential to keep us from sin (Psalm 119:11).
 1. The Psalmist knew long ago that God’s word, stored up in one’s heart through study, has the potential to keep God’s people from sin.
 2. This is why we are commanded to store it up in our hearts (Colossians 3:16).
- E. As we look at our world and see the devastation sin causes on a daily basis, we should be reminded of the great need to open and study our Bibles.
- F. It needs to begin at a young age to have better results.
 1. Paul pointed out the study Timothy had done from a young age (2 Timothy 3:15).
 2. Notice that it made him “wise unto salvation.”
 3. It paved the way for his being saved later in life.
- G. John understood the potential of God’s word to keep people from sin (1 John 2:14).
 1. Notice that God’s word was abiding, taking up residence, in the life of the young men.
 2. When it did so, it allowed them to overcome Satan and sin.
- H. Don’t you believe that if there was a drug that had the potential to keep one from cancer that people would be lining up to take it?
- I. The Bible has the potential to keep us from sin only if we put it into practice in our lives.
 1. Millions of people own Bibles.
 2. Sadly, many of those millions don’t allow the Bible to reach its full potential in their lives because of their disuse of it.
- J. No other book has the potential to keep us from sin.

IV. It’s promise.

- A. Many promises are found in the Bible.
 1. There are great promises from God.
 2. There is the promise from Jesus to prepare us a place.
 3. There is the promise of the return of Jesus.
 4. Many other promises could be pointed out.
- B. There is also a promise about the Bible.
- C. That promise is found in John 12:48.
 1. You and I will be judged by the Bible.
 2. It is going to be the standard of judgment on that great and terrible day.
- D. Again, there are a lot of great books out there.
 1. None of them will be used to judge us.
 2. All of those other books will have been burned up with all the other elements when the world is destroyed.
- E. John was allowed to see a picture of judgment in Revelation 20.

1. In that scene, mankind stood before the judgment bar of God.
 2. There were books opened, along with the book of life.
 3. Notice the wording of verse 12.
 4. Those books are the books that make up the Bible.
- F. We have the promise that you and I are going to be judged according to the words of the Bible on the Day of Judgment and not any other book.