

God's Word

Of all the books in the world, no book is so _____ and so _____ as the Bible. Today we're going to see many important _____ to hear and to follow the Bible. We're here to _____ the Scripture for God's will. The Scriptures show themselves to be _____ time and again! God gave us this unique and marvelous book to be the _____ of the truth that leads to eternal life. No other book has so many prophecies, practical advice, or relevance. The Scripture gives us the _____ that we need to live as Christians and as heirs of eternal life in a world that doesn't always understand or appreciate us.

God gave us His word so that we might know Him, know His heart, know His will for our lives, know His promises, and know His warnings. No book ancient or modern provides the exhaustive _____ wisdom found in Scripture. It provides what we most _____. God knows us better than we know ourselves, and He knows what we need. God has reserved the _____ to govern and to judge man by the words written in the Scriptures. This should cause us to _____ and apply every word carefully.

I challenge you to _____ the entire Bible. Reading God's Word and hearing His wisdom and His truth is the most valuable way to use your _____. First Peter 2:1-3 says, "Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may _____ in respect to salvation, if you've tasted the kindness of the Lord." I hope you hunger and thirst for God's Word. Nothing else will bless you more than knowing and practicing the will of God!

Our reading comes from the book of Psalms. Psalm 1:1-6.

What is your delight? What is it you look forward to each day? The psalmist said the blessed person has a delight "in the _____ of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night." The more one _____ the Word of God, the more they will become a delight. David said, "They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb" (Psalm 19:10).

Romans 1:2 calls the Bible the "_____ Scriptures," and 2 Timothy 3:15 calls them the "_____ writings." Repeatedly, the Scriptures _____ to be the very word of God. Henry Morris estimates that the Old Testament claims to be the word of God some _____ times. The Lord Jesus considered the events of the Old Testament to be _____ history. Jesus took Jonah's three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish as historical. Jesus used the punishment of Lot's wife as a means to _____ his disciples not to turn back (Luke 17:32). There's no evidence that Jesus ever regarded the creation, the flood, the crossing of the Red Sea, or any other story of the Bible as a myth or fable.

Jesus underscored the truthfulness of the book of Genesis when He referred to the "beginning" of creation as the time when a man and a woman were created and joined together by God in _____. Jesus said, "But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.' So they're no longer two but one flesh. And what therefore God has joined together, let not man _____" (Mark 10:6-9). By quoting from the creation account in Genesis, Jesus acknowledged its _____ and truth.

Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.

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By using the words “What God has joined together...” He recognized God to be the _____ of these Genesis writings.

No one can _____ the word of God, because no one can conquer God. Just like God, the Scriptures are _____. Psalm 119:89 says, “Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.” The Lord Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My _____ will not pass away” (Matthew 24:35).

The apostle Peter calls the word of God an imperishable _____. “Since you have in obedience to the _____ purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. For, ‘All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord _____ forever.’ And this is the word which was _____ to you” (1 Peter 1:22-25). Yes, the word of God is here to stay and will last till the end of time.

The Bible _____ the mind and heart of God. We can know God best by _____ the Bible. He loves us and has always wanted the _____ for us. First Timothy 2:3-4 says, “This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be _____ and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” From the beginning God has always wanted a _____ relationship with each person. He has wanted each to live godly lives, to stay away from the sinful things that destroy. The Bible is _____ about people. It tells the good and the bad, it teaches how to _____ wisely and how to avoid the pitfalls. Psalm 119:9 asks, “How can a young man keep his way _____?” The answer is, “By keeping it according to Your _____.” One can say along with the psalmist, “Your word have I treasured in my heart, That I may not _____ against You” (Psalm 119:11). Have you treasured up the word of God in your heart? If you haven’t, do you realize how you have cheated yourself?

The Bible offers us the precious _____ of truth. We need the truth not a lie. We want to know what is _____, not a myth or a fantasy. I would rather know the _____ that hurts for a short time but blesses me eternally than to hear a _____ that pleases for now but costs me my soul. The Scriptures give us the _____ to sort through the many voices of our day and unlock the truth. The psalmist proclaimed, “The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting” (Psalm 119:160). The Lord Jesus could say, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one _____ to the Father but through Me” (John 14:6). He promised, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you _____” (John 8:31-32). The Lord Jesus prayed in John 17:17, “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.” The Lord Jesus told Pilate, “For this I have been born, and for this I’ve come into the world, to _____ to the truth. And everyone who is of the truth _____ My voice (that voice is in the word of God)” (John 18:37).

Because the word of God is inspired and true, we can have _____. Romans 15:4 says, “For whatever was _____ in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” The word of God tells us where we came from, why we’re here, and where we’re going, and what the _____ of God are! They give us true _____ and they give us hope that there’s something better than this sinful and dark world. Sometimes we think we face _____ that no one has ever faced before, but there’s usually a circumstance in the Scriptures much like our own. God helped the saints of old, and He can help us too! God’s character hasn’t _____. He shows compassion on those who love and _____ Him today, just as He did in earlier days. He will _____ us through every struggle and every heartache.

I love the promise of 1 Peter 5:8-10, “Be of sober spirit, be on the _____. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring _____, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your _____, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all _____, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.”

Were it not for the Scriptures, we would know very _____ about God and His ways. We wouldn't know what the eyewitnesses said about Jesus. We wouldn't know anything about creation or heaven. We'd be as ignorant as the Stoics and Epicureans who built an altar to an unknown God. Scripture opens up God's heart, God's truth, and His promises to us.

God gave us His word to _____ us. The apostle Paul said, “For I'm not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the _____ of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16). James 1:21 says, “Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is _____ to save your souls.” When Peter came to Cornelius' house, he brought “_____” by which Cornelius and his household were saved (Acts 11:13). Romans 10:17 says, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” Second Corinthians 5:19 says of the _____, it is the “word of reconciliation.” Philippians 2:16 calls it the “word of _____.” The Lord Jesus said, “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the _____ that I've spoken to you are spirit and are life” (John 6:63).

Because the word is inspired and true, it has power to _____ into our hearts and souls. Jeremiah 23:29 says, “‘Is not My word like _____?’ declares the LORD, ‘and like a _____ which shatters a rock?’” At some point the word of God hits us between the eyes with a truth that we _____ to hear. Its truth sometimes stuns us, sometimes cuts us to the heart, but in the end it _____ us. Acts 2 tells about the response of the Jews when Peter preached about the death and resurrection of Jesus. Verse 37 says: “Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we _____?” Verse 38 gives the answer, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

They were guilty of his _____ on the cross. I'm sure they didn't at first want to _____ about their sin against God. They didn't want to _____ they had crucified the Lord and the Christ who was the Son of God, but they needed to _____ the truth. The word reproves us and rebukes us, not because it's cranky or mean-spirited. The Scriptures speak out against _____ but don't leave us hopeless and unredeemable. The Scriptures inform us to _____ us from evil and to deliver us from sin. It helps us see when we're going in the _____ direction, and it gives us a direction that is for life, and not the direction that will cost our souls.

In Proverbs 2, a father is trying to impart God's _____ to his son. He wants his son to “seek her (that is, wisdom, God's wisdom) as silver and _____ for her as for hidden treasures.” If his son pays attention and treasures up God's wisdom, God “stores up sound wisdom for the upright; And He is a _____ to those who walk in integrity, Guarding the paths of justice, And He preserves the way of His godly ones” (Proverbs 2:7-8). Many books can give you the wisdom of men, but _____ the Bible can give you the wisdom of God.

Beyond this, the Scriptures help us to see ourselves _____. Yes, there are times we need to see ourselves, so that we can make the changes necessary to _____ God. James 1:22-25 says, “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he's like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has

looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But the one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be _____ in what he does.” Don’t just listen to God’s Word, do it!

Now why does this matter? It matters, because our relationship with God is involved. Listening and obeying is the _____ of our relationship with God. The apostle John said, “By this we know that we have come to know Him (that is, have a relationship with Him), if we _____ His commandments. The one who says, ‘I’ve come to know Him,’ and doesn’t keep His commandments, is a _____, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the _____ of God has truly been perfected” (1 John 2:3-5). When you listen and obey the Lord, you show true and perfect love for God. Do you love God? Do you listen to His words?

Robert Johnson of Longview, Texas, recently wrote: “We must never be _____ of the gospel, because it is God’s will. It possesses those _____ qualities that God Himself possesses, endued with His divine authority. It will _____ fail. Though everyone has free will, and many will choose to ignore it, or try to alter it, or reject it altogether, the gospel will _____. The one who has committed his or her life to it will not be disappointed, as through His word, God will accomplish His good _____ of salvation. May we be committed to its principles and precepts, to _____ them out in our daily lives, and faithfully communicating them to those around us. Those who take their refuge in the enduring word of God, shall endure forever with Him. ‘Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him’” (Proverbs 30:5). Thanks, Robert.

When people _____ God’s word to fit themselves, they cheat themselves and those who agree with them. Sadly, people often try to make the Bible teach something _____. They’re only fooling themselves. A distorted doctrine makes a distorted disciple. The Bible frequently says, “Be not deceived,” because people often _____ to themselves rather than face the truth. That’s why we must continually _____ closely to Scripture.

I worry about those who think they’ve been saved but haven’t listened closely to the Scripture. Don’t be fooled. The Bible teaches that one must believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God to be saved (John 8:24). Out of love for God, one must repent of sin and turn to righteousness to be right with God (Luke 13:3). A loving, penitent believer then must confess their faith and be baptized into Christ. Just as those on Pentecost needed to be baptized to have their sins forgiven, and so do we. Baptism is the time when God sets us free from sin (Romans 6:3-7). I hope that you will listen to God’s Word and obey.

We hope today’s study about the word of God has stirred you to buy the truth and not sell it. Focus your heart on God by worshiping at church. Everybody needs a church family. There’s probably a church of Christ near you. If you’re looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we’ll gladly help you find one.