

A LOOK AT GOD AND HIS WORD

INTRODUCTION

- A. The Bible is the most important book in the world.
1. Men were inspired by God to write His words to us for our benefit. 2 Timothy 3:16-17, *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work,*
 2. Let's take a few moments and examine the importance of the Word of God to others down through the centuries.
- B. Let's look at one book of Psalms, 119, to see what it teaches us about God, His Word, and its importance for you and for me.

PSALM 119

- A. What can we learn about God and His Word?
1. God's Word is true
 - 160 *The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.*
 - 172 *My tongue will sing of your word, for all your commandments are right.*
 - a. *You never discover truth; truth is revealed.* Henry Blackaby, author of *Experiencing God*
 - b. *The Holy Scriptures given by inspiration of God are of themselves sufficient to the discovery of the truth.* Athanasius
 - c. *The Bible is not infallible because it says so—but because Christ says so. There is no more p 129 reliable witness to the nature of Scripture than the one who died and rose to be our Savior.* Clark Pinnock
 2. God's Word opens hearts and minds
 - 18 *Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.*
 - 105 *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*
 - a. *The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.* Martin Luther
 - b. *The Scriptures teach us the best way of living, the noblest way of suffering, and the most comfortable way of dying.* John Flavel (17th)
 - c. *Who speaks for God? He does quite nicely for Himself. Through His holy and infallible Word—and the quiet obedience of His servants.* Charles Colson
 3. God's Word is Eternal
 - 89 *Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.*
 - a. *I'd like all my books to be destroyed so that only the sacred writings in the Bible would be diligently read.* Martin Luther
 - b. *The Bible is a window...through which we may look into eternity.* Timothy Dwight (18th)
 4. God is our Faithful Creator
 - 73 *Your hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.*
 - 90 *Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.*
 - a. Exodus 3:13-14, *Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." I And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I am has sent me to you.*
 - b. God is the always existing, never created, only God.
 - c. Jesus identified Himself as Yahweh, John 18. *The soldiers asked Jesus if He is Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus said, I am. When He said that the soldiers fell back and to the ground.*

B. Why is God's Word important for us?

1. The Bible is convicting

- 4 ***You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.***
5 ***Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!***
101 ***I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.***

- a. *It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand.* Mark Twain (19th)
b. *No spiritual discipline is more important than the intake of God's Word.* Donald Whitney
c. *Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself but because it contradicts them.* Author unknown
d. *The Word is like a mirror, it reflects the sin that is in our lives.* Author unknown

2. The Bible gives wise counsel

- 9 ***How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.***
24 ***Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.***
32 ***I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!***
130 ***The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.***

- a. *Holy Scripture is the preeminent authority for every Christian, and the rule of faith and of all human perfection. It alone is the supreme law that is to rule Church, State, and Christian life, without human traditions and statutes.* John Wycliffe (14th)
b. *The Bible is a supernatural book and can be understood only by supernatural aid.* A. W. Tozer (20th C.)
c. *For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope,* Romans 15:4

3. The Bible strengthens spiritual commitment

- 11 ***I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.***
15 ***I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.***
16 ***I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.***

- a. *The core problem is not that we are too passionate about bad things, but that we are not passionate enough about good things. Has the Word of God become your passion?* Howard Hendricks
b. *Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years...Each man should use the word of God personally, practically, and habitually, that he may see his way and see what lies in it.* Charles Haddon Spurgeon (19th)
c. *The Bible is a stream wherein the elephant may swim and the lamb may wade.* Gregory the Great (6th)

4. The Bible is personally fulfilling

- 103 ***How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!***
165 ***Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.***

- a. *It is not possible ever to exhaust the mind of the Scriptures. It is a well that has no bottom.* Chrysostom (4th)
b. *God's Book is packed full of overwhelming riches; they are unsearchable—the more we have the more there is to have.* Oswald Chambers (20th)
c. *I am now reading the Bible and behaving it.* Chinese Student

5. The Bible provides eternal hope

- 81 ***My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word.***
93 ***I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.***

- a. *As in paradise, God walks in the Holy Scriptures, seeking man.* Ambrose (4th)
b. *The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home.* Augustine (4th)

CONCLUSION

- A. *Be astounded that God should have written to us.* Antony of Egypt (3rd)
- B. The psalmist's desire was not just to be a moral person but know and please God. *The sacred page is not meant to be the end, but only the means toward the end, which is knowing God Himself.* A.W. Tozer
- C. The Bible is the written Word of God and Jesus is the Living Word of God.
 - 1. *Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end.* Author unknown
 - 2. *The Bible leads us to Jesus, the inexhaustible, the ever-unfolding Revelation of God. It is Christ "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge," not the Bible, save as leading to Him.* George Macdonald
 - 3. *The Bible is the portrait of Jesus Christ.* John Stott
 - 4. *Every word of the Bible rings with Christ...The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid...Remove Christ from the Scriptures and there is nothing left.* Martin Luther
 - 5. *In the Old Testament, we have Jesus predicted. In the Gospels, we have Jesus revealed. In Acts, we have Jesus preached. In the Epistles, we have Jesus explained. In the Revelation we have Jesus expected.* Alistair Begg