

## **This We Believe... The Bible is God's Only Book**

July 11-12, 2009

**God has been revealing Himself to us since the very beginning.**

### 1. CREATION

*"The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make Him known."* Psalm chapter 19, verses 1-2 (421)

*"They know the truth about God because He has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made they can clearly see His invisible qualities-His eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God."*

Romans chapter 1, verses 19-20 (857)

### 2. JESUS

*"In the beginning the Word already existed. He was with God, and He was God. So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."* John chapter 1, verses 1 & 14. (809)

### 3. THE BIBLE

*"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are going wrong and teaches us to do what is right."*

2 Timothy chapter 3, verse 16 (915)

- The confidence that the Holy Spirit was uniquely and authoritatively guiding the writers of Scripture to write God's Word.
- The confidence that all scripture, every book, paragraph, line, word etc... is inspired.
- The confidence that all scripture is free from error, including doctrinal, historical, scientific, geographical etc...
- The confidence that God's Spirit in every Christ follower is giving them the ability to understand the Word of God.

### **What makes the Bible unique?**

- ✓ The Bible was written over 1,600 years ago by more than 40 different authors.
- ✓ It was written in three different languages.
- ✓ It was written on three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe.
- ✓ We have over 25,000 Biblical manuscripts; far more than other well known books.
- ✓ The Bible's historical, geographical and cultural accuracy is unmatched and continues to be proven.
- ✓ The consistency of ancient Biblical manuscripts is incredible and serves to prove the way God preserved His Word.
- ✓ It is the most read, bestselling book in the history of the world.
- ✓ Even with all this evidence trusting God and His Word requires faith.

**(OVER)**

## How does the Bible describe itself?

### “LAMP”

*“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.”*

*Psalm chapter 119, verse 105 (471)*

- ✓ Light reveals, warns and guides.
- ✓ Everyone needs God’s constant guidance.
- ✓ The Bible *“straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.”*
- ✓ Along with prayer, the Bible should be my first resort, not my last, when I need answers.
- ✓ “For best results follow the instructions”

*“But Samuel replied, ‘What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to His voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.’”*

*1 Samuel chapter 15, verse 22 (222)*

### “SWORD”

*“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow; it exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”*

*Hebrews chapter 4, verse 12 (922)*

- ✓ This sword is not for fighting, but for penetrating my own heart.
- ✓ “The Word pierces the heart as it recalls stories of people who chose not to take God at His word and therefore missed out on His blessing.”
- ✓ When I pick and choose what to believe (obey) in Scripture, I become the judge of the Bible rather than allowing the Bible to judge me.
- ✓ As you read the Bible, ask God to reveal to you those areas and attitudes that need to be changed. Read with a repentant spirit!

### “BREAD”

*“But Jesus told him, ‘No! The Scriptures say, “People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’”*

*Matthew chapter 4, verse 4 (735)*

- ✓ “Food is to the body what words are to the soul”
- ✓ We are shaped by the words we feed on. (TV, Books, people etc...)
- ✓ We are made up of both the physical and the spiritual - and both must be nourished.
- ✓ The Bible is not supplemental reading but required reading for my spiritual health.
- ✓ If you want strength for life and power for living, read the Bible regularly and ask God to nourish your soul.

Resources for further study:

- ✓ Evidence That Demands a Verdict - Josh McDowell
- ✓ How We Got Our Bible- Christian History Magazine- 1994- Issue # 43
- ✓ The Case for Faith- Lee Strobel
- ✓ Mere Christianity- C.S. Lewis
- ✓ The Moody Handbook of Theology- Paul Enns

**Next Week**- Salvation is a Free Gift