

Exalting the Lord Jesus through receiving His love, grace, truth and power.

Lesson # 9 — The Bible: God’s Reliable Invitation and Promise.

Introduction

- A. In these lessons we are learning to exalt the Lord Jesus by receiving His love and giving our love to Him. One of God’s loving gifts is His Holy Word. Let’s receive it as such.
- B. Some of the most valuable areas of our life are found in personal relationships. The most important relationship one can have is with the True and Living God—a loving, powerful, transparent, practical and joyful life of fellowship.
- C. One foundation stone of that relationship is His Holy Word—the Bible.
- D. First of all let’s look at the Bible itself and then at some of the invitations and promises.

I. The Special Revelation of God: the Holy Bible.

- A. The Bible has been given to us by divine inspiration.

Biblical inspiration ... is that ... activity of the Holy Spirit through which He mysteriously filled the human spirit of the Biblical writers and guided and overruled them, so that there arose an infallible, Spirit-wrought writing, a sacred record, a Book of God, with which the Spirit of God evermore organically unites Himself.
(Rene Pache, *The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture*, p. 45)

- B. Important words related to the inspiration of the Bible.
 - 1. Verbal—the inspiration extended to the choice of words.
 - 2. Plenary—the inspiration is equally in all of the words of Scripture.
 - 3. Inerrant—because of inspiration the original books were exempt from error.
 - 4. Infallible—because of inspiration the Bible is completely trustworthy.
 - 5. Revelation—through inspiration we know what could not have been known.
 - 6. Illumination—the Holy Spirit makes the truths of the Bible understandable.
- C. Note some important passages on inspiration: 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:21.
- D. Some explanatory characteristics related to the Bible as special revelation.
 - 1. It is personal—God has revealed Himself as a Person to us as persons (Heb 1:1-3).
 - 2. It is propositional—the truths of the Bible are reliably and clearly stated (Ex 20).
 - 3. It is authoritative—the inspiration of God makes the Bible totally reliable (Jn 12:48).
 - 4. It is dynamic—the word of God is living and powerful (Hebrews 4:12).
 - 5. It is inscripturated—the Bible is God’s written Word (2 Timothy 3:16,17).
 - 6. It is a disclosure—The Bible is not a human discovery but God’s revelation (Matthew 22:31).

II. The Content of the Bible as Invitation and Promise.

Introduction

Many times we look upon the Bible as only a history book or a book that echoes our parents words “Don’t do that.” In reality it is filled with loving invitations and promises.

- A. The promises related to prayer and divine help.

Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me. Ps. 50:15

We’re all in trouble sometimes. In this verse our Lord says, “***I will deliver you.***” This is a great promise. We must learn to call, be willing to be helped and taught, and make sure the Lord gets the glory. Reflect on the many times David called out for help and God heard.

- B. The promises related to God being a Father to us.

I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord. 2 Cor 6:18

No one has had a perfect father. When we have a good father we are grateful and greatly benefited. If our father did not care for us we sense loss. The great promise is that God wants to be the kind of Father to us that we have never had. And, His promise is reliable. We must ask Him to teach us how to respond to Him—so He can be that loving Father.

- C. The promises related to forgiveness.

For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. Heb 8:12

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

You will notice these verses speak of two types of forgiveness. The first verse has to do with the forgiveness related to salvation and the second to our daily life. The first sets us free from the guilt that would keep us out of Heaven and the second sets us free from how we have grieved the Holy Spirit and limited our fellowship with God. We need both.

Many people confuse these two aspects of our relationship with God. When we do that it introduces confusion into our life and it is easy to believe that we must earn salvation. We must refuse such error. Salvation’s forgiveness is all grace and once-for-all—God said so—look at the first verse. And the second forgiveness is related to daily fellowship.

- D. The promises related to His presence in our lives.

God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

What a wonderful and reliable promise. We may not be aware of Him with us all the time but He said He would be with us and that is enough. We must learn to believe and enjoy Him.