

## The Importance and Value of The Bible

### Introduction

A. God has made Himself known to us in the person of Son, Jesus Christ. The inspired record of this revelation is what we call today, the Holy Scripture.

B. There are many verses in the Bible which remind us of its importance.

For ever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven. (Psalm 119:89)

. . . Thou hast magnified Thy Word above all Thy Name. (Psalm 138:2)

C. So that we may understand the importance and value of His Word, God has given many illustrations of the Bible and made many comparisons (similes). These are designed to teach us and to lead us to more deeply appreciate His Word.

I. The Bible is Likened to Seed - to Give Life, I Peter 1:23 (Luke 8:11).

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

Observation: This verse reminds us that every person needs to be "born again". As sinners we are alienated from God. In His mercy God has made it possible for those who believe upon Jesus Christ to be reconciled. He starts with us by giving us His Word. Through the conviction and instruction which we find in the Scripture we are led to a knowledge of our sinfulness as well as the provision of God in Jesus Christ.

II. The Bible is Likened to Food - To Strengthen, Hebrews 5:12 (I Peter 2:2).

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God, and are become such as have need of milk and not of strong meat.

Observation: What food is to our bodies so the Word of God is to our spirits. God has made this gracious provision for the believer so we may become strong in our walk with Him. We all know what happens to us when we do not consistently read and practice the Bible.

III. The Bible is Likened to Water - To Cleanse, Ephesians 5:25-26 (PS. 119:9).

. . . Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word.

Observation: It is the will of God that the Christian be free from sin and all the defilement which accompanies sin. Through hearing, reading, believing and practicing the Word of God we are made the recipients of an inner spiritual washing and process of sanctification. When a Christian does not get this in his church and neglects the Bible in his daily life the result can only be confusion, doubt, and the lack of spiritual growth.

IV. The Bible is Likened to a Lamp - To Enlighten, Psalm 119:105 (II Peter 1:19).

Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Observation: When one stumbles along in the dark the importance of a light becomes very evident. This is much more so in the spiritual realm. The Bible reminds us that the sinner has lost his way and is walking in darkness. The believer has a light - the Bible.

V. The Bible is Likened to Glass - To Reflect, James 1:23 (II Cor. 3:18).

For if may be a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass.

Observation: Here the Bible is likened to a mirror. We often "see ourselves" in the Scripture and are taught in some way. To some this is such a painful experience that it is avoided. The Bible shows us the truth.

VI. The Bible is Likened to a Shield - To Guard, Psalm 91:11 (Eph. 6:14).

He shall cover thee with His feathers and under His wings shalt thou trust, His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Observation: The Christian has an enemy. The only protection God has provided is the truth. When we know and practice the Word of God it becomes a protective shield to guard us from the attacks of Satan. The Christian who lives without this protection is in constant trouble.

VII. The Bible is Likened to a Sword - To Protect, Eph. 6:17 (Hebrews 4:12).

And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

Observation: The Christian has a weapon to use against Satan. It is the truth. Not many believers have ever learned to use the Bible as a weapon. We must use the Word to correct, repel, refuse, renounce and reprove.

VIII. The Bible is likened to a Fire - To Purify, Jeremiah 23:29 (Jer. 20:9).

Is not My Word like as a fire? saith the Lord ....

Observation: When the Old Testament was written burning was one of the most sure ways of purification. A metal vessel was purified in this way. So God likens His Word to a fire. Every believer has experienced this merciful, but sometimes painful, remedy. It is interesting that the Holy Spirit is called "the Spirit of Burning" in Isaiah 4:4.

IX. The Bible is Likened to a Hammer - To Break, Jeremiah 23:29 (Jer. 50:23).

Is not My Word like as a fire? saith the Lord, and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

Observation: This simile reminds us of the power of the Bible. Many people have taken up the Bible to disprove it and prove it false - only to be broken in the process. The Bible is true and remains so even when it is denied.

X. The Bible is Likened to a Rock -- To Support, Matthew 7:24 (Ps. 71:3).

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine and doeth them, I will liken Him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.