

The Mailbox Club

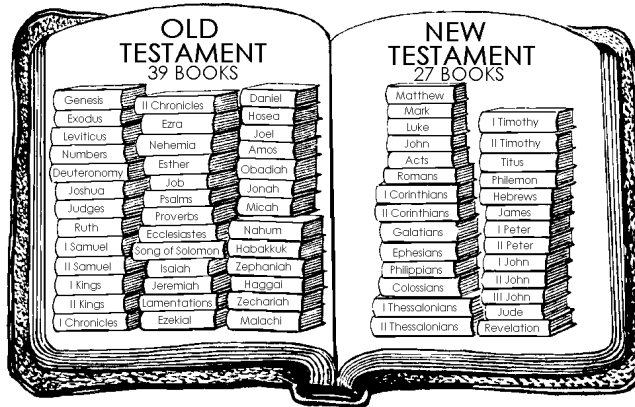
Course 1

Lesson 4



The Word of GOD

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life"
John 3:16



"...holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."
II Peter 1:21

Long, long ago, God told a man named Jeremiah to write a part of the Bible. God said to Jeremiah,

"Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book."
Jeremiah 30:2

Jeremiah obeyed God and wrote the book of Jeremiah. God's Holy Spirit told Jeremiah exactly what to write, and he wrote the words down. This is what we mean when we say that the Bible is "inspired of God." Every book in the Bible was written in this way. The Bible says,

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God...."
II Timothy 3:16

This is how the Bible was written, and God's Word has been passed down to us from one generation to another.

"Was any other book written in this way? No, the Bible is the only book which was inspired by God.

Dear Friend,

In our first three lessons we learned many things. We learned how to become a child of God by receiving Jesus Christ as our Saviour. We learn many things about God and we learned about the enemies of the Christian and how to have victory over them.

How did we learn all these things? We learned them from God's book--the Bible.

What is the Bible? How did we get the Bible? What is the Bible about? How can I understand the Bible?

These are very important questions, and we will find the answers to them in this lesson.

What Is The BIBLE?

The Bible is God's holy Word. It is God's message to us, and it is the most important book in all the world.

The first part of the Bible is called the Old Testament, and it was written before Christ came to the earth.

The second part of the Bible is called the New Testament and it was written after Christ came to earth and went back to Heaven.

The Bible has 66 books - thirty-nine in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament.

How Did We Get The Bible?

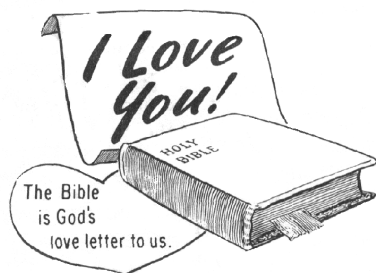
Perhaps you are wondering, "who wrote the Bible and how did we get it?"

God Himself is the true Author of the Bible, though He used many men to write it. God told these men what to write, and even the words to use. The Bible says,

When the last book in the Bible was written, God Word was complete. The Bible warns against adding to the Word of God or taking away from it (See Revelation 22:18,19)

What Is The Bible About?

The Bible tells us how man turned away from God into sin and how God gave His Son to die for our sins. It tells us that God loves us and that He wants us to become His children by taking Christ as our Saviour.



The Bible is the most important book in the world because it tells us how to be saved. The Apostle Paul wrote to young Timothy,

"...from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation...."
II Timothy 3:15

God gave us this wonderful book that we might know the truth. The Bible tells us the truth about ourselves, about sin, about Satan, about salvation, and about God.

How Can We Understand The Bible?

There are many things in the Bible that are hard for us to understand. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had a teacher who knew all about God and His Word?

Well, there is Someone like that! He is the Holy Spirit. God has given the Holy Spirit to us to teach us the Bible. The moment we take Christ as our Saviour, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. He lives

in every believer. The Holy Spirit teaches us the things of God. The Lord Jesus said,

"...the Comforter (the Holy Spirit)...whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things...."
John 14:26



Without the Holy Spirit, we could not understand God's Word. How thankful we should be that God has given the Holy Spirit to us! Each time we read the Bible, we should depend on the Holy Spirit to teach us God's Word. This is what David meant when he prayed,

"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law."
Psalm 119:18

What Does God Want Us to Do with The Bible?

Here are four things God wants us to do: (1) Read the Bible each day, (2) Believe the Bible, (3) Memorize verses from the Bible, and (4) Obey the Bible. Let us think about each of these things.

1. Read the Bible each day.

Why should we read the Bible daily? We should read the Bible each day because this is the way God speaks to us and tells us what He wants us to know and what He wants us to do.

Reading the Bible is as important to our spiritual life as

eating food is to our physical life. We cannot live the Christian life without the Word of God.

The Lord Jesus said,

"Man shall not live by bread alone (food alone), but by every word of God."
Luke 4:4

2. Believe the Bible.

We cannot please God unless we have faith. The Bible says,

"Without faith it is impossible to please Him...."
Hebrews 11:6

What is faith? Faith is taking God at His Word. Faith is believing the Bible.

If others want to doubt the Bible, let them do so, but settle it in your mind the Bible is God's holy Word. The Bible says,

"For ever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in Heaven."
Psalm 119:89

Once a great preacher named D. L. Moody wanted to have more faith. He prayed and prayed for God to give him great faith, but he did not seem to have more faith. Then, one day, he read this verse in his Bible:

"...faith cometh by hearing, the hearing by the Word of God." Romans 10:17

Mr. Moody saw the truth!

He saw that faith comes from the Word of God. He began to read and study God's Word. As he read, and studied the Bible, he believed it. His faith grew and grew.

Would you like to have more faith? Then read God's Word, believe it, and act upon it.

3. Memorize verses from the Bible.

The Bible is "the sword of the Spirit." This means that it is our weapon to use against Satan.

The Bible is "The Sword of the Spirit"



When the Lord Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, Jesus used the Word of God. Jesus had memorized the Scriptures, and He used them to defeat Satan. Each time Satan tempted Him, the Lord Jesus said, "It is written," and He quoted a Scripture verse. Satan was defeated!

If we want to have victory over Satan's temptations, we must memorize God's Word. This is "hiding God's Word in our heart." The Bible says,

*"The Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee."
Psalm 119:11*

Memorizing God's Word will also help you to be a good witness for Christ. If you use your own words in talking to others, they may say, "That's just your opinion," or "Who are you to tell me what I ought to do?" But, if you quote the Bible, your words will have power because they are God's words.

(4) Obey the Bible.

The Bible contains facts to be believed, promises to be claimed, and commands to be obeyed. The Lord wants us to obey Him. Jesus said,

*"Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in Heaven."
Matthew 7:21*

When God tells you in His Word that you should do something, then do it. God blesses those who obey His Word. The Lord Jesus said,

"Blessed are they that hear the Word of God, and keep it (obey it)." Luke 11:28

BEGIN NOW

Begin now to read God's Word each day. Get a Bible with good print - one that you can read easily. Set a time each day to read your Bible and pray. Most Christians find that the best time to this is the first thing in the morning.

Begin with the Gospel of John. As you read it, watch for the words "believe" and "believeth," and underline them in your Bible. The Gospel of John was written to help us believe on Jesus Christ as the Son of God and as our Lord and Saviour. John wrote,

*"These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name."
John 20:31*



After you have read the Gospel of John several times, you will want to read the entire New Testament and the whole Bible.

When you come across a verse you especially like, memorize it. God promises special blessing to those who love His Word and think about it day and night. And, when you learn a wonderful truth from God's Word, share it with a friend.

Remember, the most important reason for studying the Bible is to get to know the Lord Jesus Christ better and to become more like Him.

You Can Know that You Are Saved.

Before we close the lesson, let us look at three wonderful verses from God's Word. Here are the first two:

*"This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."
I John 5:11,12*

What do these verses tell us? They tell us that the Bible is "the record" of what God has said. In the Bible, God tells us that He has given us eternal life and that this life is in His Son. If you have Christ as your Savior, you have eternal life; if you do not have Him, you do not have eternal life. There, you understand that, don't you?

Our third verse tells us something God wants believers to know. Here is the verse:

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life...." I John 5:13

What does God want you to know? He wants you to know that you have eternal life. A true believer does not have to say, "I hope I am saved," or "I think I am saved." He can say, "I KNOW that I am saved because God says so in His Word." How thankful we should be for the Word of God!

Discovered Gem

◆ The Bible is God's Holy Word. God wants me to read it, believe it, memorize it, and obey it!



Helpful Hints

Bible Reading: Fellowship with God

Here are some ideas that will help you to fellowship with God as you read the Bible.

WHY READ THE BIBLE

We read the Bible first of all in order to have fellowship with God. The Bible is God's Word to us. He does not speak aloud to us but He speaks to us in our hearts by His written Word. If we want to hear what God has to say to our hearts, we must read the Bible.

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

Read it aloud. It will help to keep your mind on what you are reading.

Think. Don't be in a hurry. Take time to think about what you are reading.

Talk to God. Talk to Him about what you are reading. If you don't understand something, tell Him so and ask Him to help you to understand. When you read something helpful, tell Him so and thank Him for it. When you read something wonderful about God, tell Him right then how wonderful He is.

Wait on God. This just means to be quiet before God with your mind on Him and His word that you have just read

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

Mark it. When God speaks something special to you, underline those words in your Bible. That is God's word to you, personally. A colored pencil is best for this (Do not use a ball point or ink pen. These will "bleed" through the paper of most Bibles.)

Obey it. Do what God tells you to do. Sometimes He shows us a sin that we need to confess to Him. Sometimes He shows us something that needs to be made right with another person. Be quick to obey.

Say it. Share with others the blessings that God gives you as you read His Word. It will help others and it will help you, too.

Remember it. All through the day, let your mind go back to the word that God spoke to you. Talk to Him about it in your heart. This is fellowship with God.

QUESTION PAGES

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Turn to the Question Page as you finish each lesson. Fill in the answers for that lesson before going on to the next lesson.
2. When you have studied the lesson and completed the Question Page, carefully detach the question page from the lesson.
3. Print your name and address in the space provided at the bottom of each Question Page. Be sure your correspondence school name and your return address is on the return envelope.
4. Fold the Question Page and place it a return envelope with a First Class stamp in the proper place and mail back to your Correspondence School.

DON'T FORGET TO WRITE IN YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS!

Send back your answer sheet only!

QUESTIONS: Fill in every blank.

1. What is the Bible? The Bible is _____.
2. The first part of the Bible is called _____, and it was written _____
Christ came to the earth.
3. The second part of the Bible is called _____, and it was written _____
Christ came to earth and went back to Heaven.
4. _____ is the true Author of the Bible though He used _____ to write it.
5. When Jeremiah wrote the book of Jeremiah, did God's Holy Spirit tell him exactly what to write? _____.
Was every book in the Bible written in this way? _____.
6. Complete: "_____ given _____" II
Timothy 3:16
7. Was any book besides the Bible written in this way?_____.
8. The Bible is the most important book in the world because it tells us _____.
9. Has God given the Holy Spirit to us to teach us the Bible? _____. Does the Holy Spirit live in every
believer? _____.
10. God wants us to do four things with the Bible: (1) _____, (2)
_____, (3) _____, and (4)
_____.

PLEASE PRINT

You must return answer sheet before you get the next lesson.

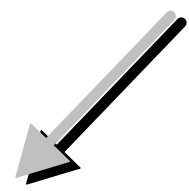
Name _____ Age _____

Parent's name _____

Mailing address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send in your answer sheet only!



CHECK ANSWERS CAREFULLY BEFORE MAILING!
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