

# WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

John 14:6

April 14, 2013

## INTRODUCTION

- What do Americans really think about the Bible? A survey from the Barna Group commissioned by the America Bible Society revealed:
  1. 88 % of Americans own a Bible.
  2. 80 % say the Bible is sacred.
  3. 61% wish they read the Bible more.
  4. 77% believe the values and morals of America are declining.  
Blame for this decline:
    - 32% say lack of Bible reading.
    - 29% say negative influence of media.
    - 25% say corruption from corporate greed.
  5. 47% believe the Bible, Koran and The Book of Mormon are all expressions of the same truths.
  6. 66% believe the Bible contains everything a person needs to live a meaningful life.
- We study the Bible to understand what God wants us to know.
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

### I. God is the subject of the Bible.

#### A. The Creator – Gen. 1:1

1. He existed before creation – “In the beginning...”
2. God has existed eternally. Ps. 90:2
3. He created the heavens and the earth.
4. Vegetation was created. Gen. 1:11-12
5. Birds and sea creatures were created. Gen. 1:20-23
6. He created cattle, four-legged animals and beasts larger than cattle.
7. God created man. Gen. 1:26
  - a. In his own image.
  - b. Gave man dominion over the earth. Gen. 1:26
  - c. Created male and female. Gen. 1:27
  - d. Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. Gen. 1:28

#### B. God relates to man and woman.

1. Adam is given permission to eat from any tree. Gen. 2:16
2. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was not to be eaten from. Gen. 2:17.
3. God arranges the first marriage. Gen:22-25

## II. The creation is marred. Gen. 3:1-24.

### A. The serpent tempted Eve.

1. Doubt is cast on God's word. Gen. 3:1
2. The truthfulness of God's word is denied. Gen. 3:4
3. Eve eats the forbidden fruit.
4. Eve gives some of the fruit to Adam and he eats.

### B. God confronts Adam, Eve and the serpent. Gen 3:7-19. Grace is God's response.

1. Adam and Eve's eyes were opened to sine (evil). Gen. 3:7
2. When they heard the sound (voice) of the Lord, they hid themselves.
3. God asks Adam, "Where are you?"
  - a. Adam hid because he was naked.
  - b. God: "Who told you that you were naked?" No answer given.
  - c. God: "Have you eaten from the tree which I commanded you not to eat?"
    - 1) Adam blames Eve.
    - 2) Eve blames the serpent.

### C. God gives the consequences of sin. Gen. 3:14-19

1. The serpent.
  - a. You will crawl on your belly.
  - b. There will be enmity between your (serpent) seed and her (the woman) seed.
    - 1) He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.
    - 2) Jesus Christ is the woman's offspring. This is the first gospel.  
Grace is at work.
2. The woman (Eve).
  - a. Pain in childbirth.
  - b. The husband wife relationship will include struggle.
    - 1) God says, your husband shall rule over you.
    - 2) Eph. 5:22-25. The marital relationship.
3. The man (Adam).
  - a. The ground is cursed because Adam listened to Eve rather than the voice of God.
  - b. Man did not die physically yet (only spiritually), he would return to

dust in physical death.

4. God's response – Gen. 3:21-24

a. God's grace – He makes garments for Adam and Eve.

1) The first physical death was an animal.

2) Here we see the idea of a substitute to cover our sin – Jesus.

b. Adam and Eve are banished from the Garden of Eden to prevent them from taking from the tree of life and eating.

c. God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden.

III. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. John 14:6

A. The Way.

1. Two gates, two roads and two destinations. Matthew 7:13-14

a. Jesus tells us to enter through the narrow gate.

b. The wide gate and broad road:

1) Many will enter.

2) This way includes all the religious and philosophies of man.

3) Destruction is the destination.

c. The small gate and narrow road:

1) Few find it-but open to all.

2) Listen to God's voice and obey it.

3) Life is its destination.

2. Jesus is the new and living way. Hebrews 7:24-25; Hebrews 10:19-20; John 10:7; and 10:9-10.

B. The Truth – "Reality in Person".

1. The Word became flesh. John 1:14

2. The Word was God. John 1:1-3

3. "Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." John 18:37

4. "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27

C. The Life – the Miracle through the Messiah.

1. The Father has given the Son authority to give eternal life. John 17:2

2. Eternal life is knowing the Father and the Son. John 17:3

3. We come to know the Lord through faith. John 3:16

4. Eternal life begins when you are saved. John 5:24

IV. We will be conformed to the likeness (image) of His Son. Romans 8:29

A. Salvation is the miracle of rebirth (regeneration) brought by the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5

1. We have acknowledged and repented of our sins.

2. We know Jesus died on the cross to pay the debt for our sins.

3. We confess that Jesus is our Lord and give our lives to Him. Romans 10:9
4. We are born again.
- B. We present our bodies as living sacrifices. Romans 12:1
  1. God has begun a good work in us. Philippians 1:6
  2. We are called to continue to work out our salvation as God is working in us. Philippians 2:12-13
  3. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Romans 12:2
    - a. Stop conforming to the pattern of this world.
    - b. We are to think like God does.
      - 1) Recognize Scripture.
      - 2) Meditate on scripture. Psalm 1:2
      - 3) Observe the text. What does it say?
      - 4) Interpret the text. What does it mean?
      - 5) Application of the text. What does it mean to me?
      - 6) The Holy Spirit will teach you and remind you of everything Jesus has said to us. John 14:26
      - 7) We are on Mission-making disciples. Matthew 28:18-20

Invitation

Here God and Obey! John 14:21