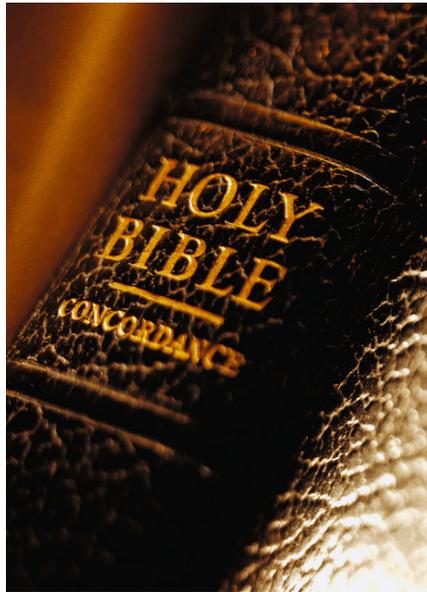
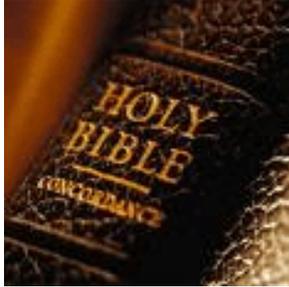


# *God's Word*



## *The Only Book God Wrote*

By Bill Fairchild, Jr.



## Uses For This Lesson Material

This lesson material has been designed for multiple uses. You will find below several of those uses. It is our intent through this material to lead individuals to a deeper appreciation for our God who made us ... appreciation for His revealed Word that serves to guide and comfort us ... and to help prepare our souls for eternity! May the Lord bless you as you study from His Word!

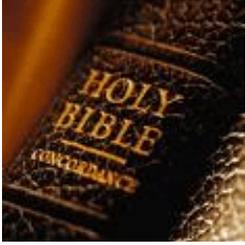
**Individual Study:** You can go through this series of lessons on your own at a pace that you are comfortable with. It would be suggested that you study one lesson per week to give you time to really consider the content of each lesson.

**Family Study:** This material can serve as a wonderful guide for a family to sit down and learn together what God expects of His own.

**Group Study:** You can use this series of lessons in a group setting such as a young people's devotion where each one who attends the class agrees to keep up with the study from class to class.

**Bible Class Curriculum:** This series of lessons is suitable for a 13-week or a 26-week quarterly system study and it contains sufficient material to be implemented both Sunday morning and Wednesday night if desired.

**One-On-One Study:** This series of lessons is suitable for you and a friend to study together from week to week. And both of you will experience personal growth in your faith and service to the Lord.



## Practical Suggestions On Getting The Most Out Of This Lesson Series

If you want to really grow as a Christian ... you must be willing to spend the time necessary to know God's Word better and be courageous enough to apply what you learn to your own life! Sometimes ... there are truths learned in the Scriptures that can be most challenging to our hearts and our lives. This series of lessons will help you ... if you follow these suggestions:

- ☞ **Begin every Bible study with prayer. Ask the Lord to help you to have an open mind and a receptive heart!**
- ☞ **Use a good study Bible. You might want to consider the New King James Version or the New American Standard Bible. Also the English Standard Version.**
- ☞ **Really work through each lesson.**
  - **Look up every Bible verse that is referenced.**
  - **Think about each one of the questions that is being asked.**
  - **Answer each question ... don't skip any of them.**
  - **Make notes in the margin of the lesson sheet ... including any questions or thoughts you might have.**
  - **Start trying to memorize the text passages at the beginning of each lesson and those at the end of the lesson.**
- ☞ **Be brave enough to apply each Bible lesson to your own life.**
  - **Accept God's teachings as truth and be willing to obey Him in every relationship you have.**
  - **Be willing to change any attitudes that you may have that are not in keeping with God's will.**
  - **Determine to share the truths you learn from these studies with your friends, family and anyone else who will listen.**

## ***Making The Most Of This Material***

### **Psalm 102:18**

***“This will be written for a generation to come,  
that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord.”***

The objective of the **WalkingInSunlight.com** literature is to help young people to acquire a better understanding of ... and appreciation for ... God, His Word, and the church He purchased with the blood of His Son.

Our goal is to prepare young people for their daily challenges of choosing what will bring them real happiness by arming them with the ability to use God’s Word to answer every question.

Laying their own life questions and experiences alongside the proper scriptures will enable them to clearly see God’s directions.

God’s instructions are so clear that even children can understand how God wants them to behave and what He would have them choose when they look at the scriptures without prejudices.

- These studies are made age-specific by **Discussion**.
- **Read aloud every Scripture** – every student should look up every Scripture in their own Bible.
- Allow adequate time for students to think about and answer **every question**.
- **Listen** to what they say.
- **Point them to God’s instructions**, written and preserved for their benefit.

Hosea 4:1,6 *“Hear the word of the Lord, you children of Israel, for the Lord brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land.”*  
*“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me. Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”*

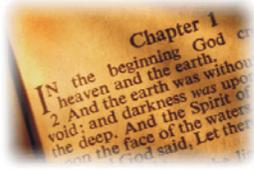
**Each lesson may require several class periods.**

It is an awesome privilege to help young people grow closer to God!

You are encouraged to make copies of these lessons and use them free of charge in your Bible studies and classes. Please pray for the success of this work and for those who are helping to make it possible.

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## Lesson One

# An Introduction To This Study ...

You're walking in the halls at school ... one of your classmates approaches you ... and they ask this question: "The Bible ... what do you think of it?" What would you say? Would you look around first to see who was there and might be listening? Would you be able to answer sincerely?

Each of us ... regardless of our age, background, or social standing must answer the following question during our lifetime: "What is going to be the final authority for my own life?" We must be very careful in answering this question too quickly!

- When it comes to establishing a standard of morality (what's right and wrong) ... what is going to be your ruler to measure by?
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- When you need direction regarding ethics (what you do and not do) ... which compass will you follow in order to go in the right direction?
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- When you are being tossed about in a sea of uncertainty ... and emotional challenges ... which lighthouse will show you to the safety of the shore?
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I can say to you with all certainty ... there can be no more reliable authority on earth than God's Word ... the Bible (2 Timothy 1:12)! I have seen in my own life ... and in the lives of so many others ... what God's Word can really do! In the words of the apostle Paul as he talked for one last time with the elders of the church at Ephesus recorded in Acts 20:32, "*... I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*"



a. Please define the phrase “*build up*” ...

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b. Questions: Why would the elders at Ephesus need to be “*built up*?”  
What was it that the apostle Paul said would accomplish  
this?  
Do we need to “*built up*” ourselves? Why?

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Today ... at this time in my life ... the enthusiasm that is in my heart to learn more from the Bible’s inspired pages (see Matthew 5:6) ... has never been greater! The more I grow in my faith and understanding of God’s Word ... the more I want to know!

Questions: Wouldn’t you like to grow in your faith?  
Don’t you think the Lord would be very pleased if He saw you growing?  
Isn’t it so ... that in most cases ... those around us (family, friends, etc.)  
are encouraged to see us growing and maturing whether in accepting  
responsibilities, becoming more mature in our decisions ... more careful  
and thoughtful in the use of our words?

There is a wonderful passage of Scripture recorded in Psalm 119:1-11 that I want to focus on, “*Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart! They also do no iniquity; They walk in His ways. You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently. Oh, that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes! Then I would not be ashamed, When I look into all Your commandments. I will praise You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments. I will keep Your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly! How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.*”

The writer of this psalm had learned to deal with any situation in life ... just as long as he had God’s Word beside him and in his heart!

Questions: Do you have God’s Word beside you and in your heart?  
Would you like to be able to make the same claim?

Fact: You can ... if you're willing believe what God tells you in His Word!

In this series of studies ... we want to help strengthen your faith in God and your trust in the Bible as His inspired Word! We want to help you appreciate more fully the value of God's Book ... to realize that His Word does indeed have the answers (2 Peter 1:3)!

God's Word is intended by Him to be the final answer to our questions ... and the destination for our search into the meaning of our lives. Young people ... turning to the Scriptures will provide something for you that nothing else on earth can or will provide!

Questions: What does the apostle Peter mean in 2 Peter 1:3 when he writes, "*as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue?*"  
Specifically, what do the terms "*life and godliness*" mean?

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You are faced with choices every day of your life ... some are less important than others! Some will have bearing on your eternal resting place (2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:12)! In a world that is ever changing in its values and morals ... the Bible speaks in terms of right and wrong ... of good and bad ... of yes and no ... and of true and false!

- God's Word addresses what is good ... and also what is sinful ... in God's eyes! Give some examples of what is good and what is sinful:
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- The Scriptures will not leave you with a puzzled look regarding the issues of life! Give some examples of some issues of life we have to face today:
- 
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- The Bible speaks in terms of "this is the way it is ... this is the way it is not to be!" Give several examples of each ...
- 
-

- The Bible speaks in terms of “This is the way your are to walk in this life .. Do not walk over there!” Give several examples of each ...
- 
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This is the kind of foundation that all of us need to have! Our God has revealed His will to us in His Word ... The Bible!

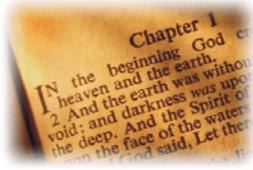
But ... I don't want you to take my word for it! I want you to arrive at the place in your heart where you believe ... without any reservations ... that this Book comes from God. So we will be looking into several areas in these studies: The God who has revealed Himself to us through His Word and what He is like ... the fact that God Has Indeed Spoken and that His Word, the Bible is His Word ... and that We Can Have Confidence In What He Has Spoken including some thoughts on inspiration ... that We Can Understand What He Has Spoken To Us and realize just how much knowledge there is within its pages ... and finally, we will talk about listening to Him and come face to face with the question of what kind of listeners we really are!

The psalmist writes in Psalm 119:104, *“Through your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.”* There is so much we can all learn about who we are ... in God's eyes ... and so much we can learn regarding what He wants each of us to do in our lives! Your life can be truly *“transformed”* (*Romans 12:1,2*) by what you discover in God's wonderful Word!

The Bible is the greatest treasure you will ever lay your eyes and hands on! Its value surpasses all else in the world. Wouldn't it be a real tragedy if you allowed its cover to collect dust on the bookshelf ... or dirt in the backseat floorboard of the car ... or be sun-baked in the rear deck of the car! I want to encourage you in this series of studies to realize the value of the Bible as the greatest source of hope ... of encouragement ... of strength ... of peace ... and of genuine blessing! Would you study with me ... you will be glad you did!!!



truth  
for today's youth



## Lesson Two

**Text: “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.” (2 Corinthians 13:5)**

# The Bible ... And You

### Introduction:

1. The word “test” is one of those words that causes most of us to frown ... roll our eyes ... maybe even break out into a sweat!
2. The word “exam” ... a synonym for “test” ... does the same thing, doesn’t it!
3. The fact is a test or an exam is necessary in many areas of our life in order to measure our knowledge of a particular area.
  - a. For example ... before you can legally drive a car on the road ... you must take a 2-part driving exam that includes both written and actual driving.
  - b. The apostle Paul actually admonished the Corinthian brethren, as well as us, to “*examine ourselves ... to test ourselves.*” (2 Cor. 13:5)
  - c. Questions: How do we “examine ourselves” or “test ourselves”?  
What are we supposed to be looking for?

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  - d. Answer: The apostle Paul was saying that we are to look into our own heart of hearts and see if what is really supposed to be there ... is really there!
4. You are going to be asked to complete the following pages! You are not really being tested ... this is not some sort of an exam!
  - a. These questions are actually an evaluation of where your biblical knowledge is!

- b. These questions are actually an evaluation of why you believe what you believe!
- c. So ... don't be nervous!!

### **Part One:**

Please arrange the following events recorded in the Bible in correct chronological order (that is, the order in which they occurred):

- \_\_\_\_\_ Plagues in Egypt
- \_\_\_\_\_ Moses receives the 10 Commandments on Mt. Sinai
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conquest of Canaan
- \_\_\_\_\_ Paul in prison in Rome
- \_\_\_\_\_ Death of Moses
- \_\_\_\_\_ Creation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Birth of Jesus
- \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph is sold by his brothers into slavery
- \_\_\_\_\_ Daniel is placed in the lion's den
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Tower of Babel
- \_\_\_\_\_ Promises given to Abraham by God
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12 spies are sent into the Land of Canaan
- \_\_\_\_\_ Noah and the Flood
- \_\_\_\_\_ Establishment of the church
- \_\_\_\_\_ David slays the giant

- \_\_\_\_\_ Israelites wandering in the wilderness
- \_\_\_\_\_ Israel is a united kingdom
- \_\_\_\_\_ The meeting of Jesus and Zacheus
- \_\_\_\_\_ Israel is a divided kingdom
- \_\_\_\_\_ The death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Christ

1. So ... how did you do? Is there some room for improvement?

## Part Two:

Please answer the following questions as honestly as you can:

1. The Bible begins with the description of God creating the universe in six days.

a. Do you believe this record of how our world came into existence? Y or N

b. Is there any part of the Genesis account of Creation that is not true? Y or N

c. If so ... which part?

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2. The Bible records the events surrounding a great flood (Genesis 6) that covered the world with water.

a. Do you believe this account of the Great Flood? Y or N

b. Is there any part of the Flood events that you do not believe happened as they are recorded in the Bible? Y or N

c. If so ... which part?

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3. The Bible records that Moses while leading the Israelites out of Egypt literally parted the waters of the Red Sea allowing the Israelites to escape on dry land (Exodus 14).
- a. Do you believe this record of these events really took place? Y or N
  - b. Is there any part of this event that you do not believe is accurate or true? Y or N
  - c. If so ... which part?
- 
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4. The Bible says that a young shepherd boy named David killed the giant warrior Goliath with a stone and a sling shot (1 Samuel 17).
- a. Do you believe this story in the Bible is absolutely true? Y or N
  - b. If so ... which part?
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5. The Bible says that a young man with great faith in God named Daniel, was willing to be put into a lion's den rather than disobey and dishonor his God (Daniel 6).
- a. Do you really believe that Daniel survived his time in the lion's den with the help of the Lord? Y or N
  - b. Is there any portion of this Bible event that you question or do not believe to be true? Y or N
  - c. If so ... which part?
- 
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6. The Bible records with great detail the most significant story of all when it records the life and death ... the burial and resurrection ... and the ascension of Jesus Christ to the right hand of God in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John).

- a. Do you really believe the story of Jesus Christ is for real? Y or No
  - b. Is there any portion of this Greatest Story Ever Told that you do not believe is true? Y or N
  - c. If so ... which part?
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## Let's Sum It Up ...

1. Well ... how did you do? Were you able to answer all of these questions honestly and correctly?
2. Were you able to arrange the various Bible events in their proper order?
3. Don't beat yourself up! Don't be too hard on yourself? But don't excuse yourself either!
4. I would like to make a suggestion to you and the suggestion is this: Ask the Lord to help you have the attitude of the psalmist when he wrote the following words, *"I thought about my ways, And turned my feet to Your testimonies. I made haste and did not delay ..."* (Psalm 119:59,60).
5. And then, my friend, you will be able to say as David exclaimed regarding God's Word:

***"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than the honey and the honeycomb."*** (Psalm 19:10)



truth  
for today's youth



## Lesson Three

**Text:** *“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things through whom also He made the worlds.”* (Hebrews 1:1,2)

# The God Who Speaks ...

## Introduction:

1. Questions: Do you believe in God? Be honest ...  
Why or why not?  
Do you believe the world came into existence all by itself (evolution)?  
Do you believe God created this world ... that He spoke it into existence?  

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2. Questions: How important are the preceding questions to understanding our lives?  
Are these questions you have wrestled with in your mind?  
Do you think they could become questions you might have to deal with?  

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3. I want to take a quick whirlwind trip with you around our universe:  
As we take this trip, think about the words of Psalm 19:1-4 ...
  - Looking through the lense of the Hubble telescope into outer space ... we see a star nicknamed the “Ant in a Tutu” for its unusual shape. The stars official name is Eta Carinar ... and it is traveling at a speed of 1.5 million miles per hour!

- Looking through Hubble's lense again ... we see what seems to be an empty portion of space. But, looking more closely we discover layers and layers of galaxies as far as the telescope can reach! And within each galaxy are billions of stars!
  - Looking through this powerful telescope ... we see one planet after another ... and we are in awe of the wonders of the heavens ... and our minds are overwhelmed at the beauty and variety!
  - Now ... leaving the telescope ... let's fly over the Atlantic Ocean to check out an underwater mountain range known as the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. We get as comfortable as we can into a smaller version of a submarine ... for a quick two and a half miles under the ocean's surface. Looking through the portals ... our eyes are glued to the sight as the lights of the sub illuminate the darkness. We see millions of tiny eyeless shrimp feeding on the bacteria of a deep sea geyser. Amazing ... but let's move on.
  - We fly to the South American continent and over Brazil and float over the expansive rain forest ... a sea of green is observed in every direction ... the air is heavy from the 155 inches of rain that the forest receives annually. And the sounds ... bird noises of all kinds ... monkey chatter ... frogs croaking ... bugs buzzing around. Time to move on.
  - Now we find ourselves in a scientific laboratory where the microscopes can magnify small objects up to 50,000 times. The visuals are incredible. We can look inside a living cell ... which is the building block of living things. Inside are many little machinelike forms ... all very busy doing their specific tasks. Included then we see the DNA ... a ladder-like structure with innumerable rungs. This tiny bit of matter carries all the information needed to reproduce an exact replica of the cell! On and on we could go with our observation: interlocking protein molecules ... amino acids with a unique chain and patterns. The intricacy ... the wonder of it all!
4. Our trip has come to an end ... and we are without the words to express what we've just seen ... especially when we realize this was just a small portion of this wonderful universe that we are a part of!
  5. This is just a glimpse of what our Creator has done. We recognize that anything this precise ... this intricate ... this detailed has to have a Designer! It has to have a Manager! Or does it?

Question: How does a computer work?  
Where does it come from?  
Isn't it so that the more powerful a computer is ... the more we recognize the intelligence of its designer.  
Would anyone really want to suggest that something as sophisticated as a computer happened by chance!

6. God is the Creator of this universe! He is the One who designed it all! God's hand is evident in every way! (Genesis 1:1)

7. The Bible ... His inspired Word ... tells us about this God! Will you listen to what it says?

### **The God of the Bible Speaks ...**

1. The message of the Bible is that our God is the Creator ... He is the One who has put so much beauty and variety into every corner of this big and beautiful planet called Earth!

a. Please read Psalm 19:1-4.

Questions: What do these verses say about God?  
What do these verses say about the psalmist, David who wrote them?  
Do these verses express how you feel about this world God has made?

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2. Please read Hebrews 1: 1,2 again ...

Questions: Who is this God who has revealed Himself?  
What does this passage of Scripture mean?

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Answers: Well ... "*at sundry times*" means in many portions (as in the 39 books of the Old Testament). The Old Testament books reflect different historical times, locations, cultures and situations.

And, “in various ways” means in many manners. You see ... God spoke through various people in different ways of communication ... by visions, types, symbols, parables, prophecies.

The point we want to make is this: God always spoke!  
He is there and He is not silent!

3. Question: If God didn't speak ... could we really know Him? Discuss the place of communication between people ... and then between people and God.
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4. In Genesis 1:1 we read ...

- a. He spoke ... and out of nothing the universe was born!

Question: Do you believe this to be the origin of this world?  
Do you believe this is how we came into existence?  
Why do so many choose not to accept this account of creation?  
Do you suppose it could have anything to do with not wanting to answer for their lives? Discuss ...

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- b. The Jewish people always understood God as a God who spoke!

- c. Note the following passages of Scripture:

Psalm 119:89

Matthew 24:35

I Peter 1:25

5. Very simply, the Creator of this world ... the source of the Bible ... speaks ... and what He says is sure!

6. Please turn to Isaiah 46:5-7 and Discuss.

Questions: What is the contrast being made in this passage of Scripture?  
How is God different from all the idols of other religions?

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7. On Mt. Carmel, the prophets of Baal were challenged by the prophet, Elijah to get an answer from their gods (see I Kings 18:17-40).

Questions: Did their gods answer them?  
Could they answer them? Why not?  
Did God answer in this situation?  
In what ways?

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a. The fact is ... God said a lot! He sent fire from heaven and consumed not only the sacrifice ... but the rocks and water too! (I Kings 18:39)

8. The point we want to make is this: God has spoken ... and He has spoken in His Word! Are you listening??

### **Let's Sum It Up ...**

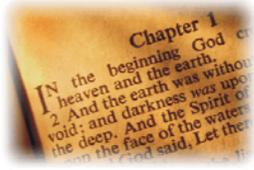
1. The most important truth that anyone of us can ever accept is the truth of the Bible being God's Word!
2. God has spoken ... and He has spoken in His Word!
3. The more you and I can come to know ... understand ... and believe the Word of God is God's inspired Word ...
  - ◆ The more unshakeable our convictions will be about Who He is ... about what His expectations are of each one of us. See 2 Timothy 1:12 and Hebrews 11:6 ...
  - ◆ The more we will want to learn ... to truly "*hunger and thirst after righteousness*" (*Matthew 5:6*)!
  - ◆ And the more our appetite for even more knowledge, understanding and wisdom will be satisfied!

4. May your appetite increase for more understanding ... may you thirst for more knowledge of God's Book ... and may you come to bow in respect and reverence for the awesome God we serve! The prophet Habakkuk said it so well in his book when he wrote in Habakkuk 2:20, "But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."
- a. You see ... no one can assert his or her independence from the God of heaven and earth ... because all of the earth must worship in humble submission to Him!
  - b. If one chooses not to depend upon the Lord in this life ... he will at last come to the inevitable conclusion in the Judgment!
  - c. But then ... it will be too late!

***"Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust" (Psalm 16)***



truth  
for today's youth



## Lesson Four

**Text:** *“I love those who love Me, And those who seek Me diligently will find me.” (Proverbs 8:17)*

# Learning More About The Author ...

### Introduction:

1. Questions: What is God like, really?
  - Does He really exist?
  - Does He know who every person on this planet is?
  - Does He really care about what we do in our lives?
  - Does it really matter to Him about the choices we make?
  - Does He really care how we turn out in life?
  
2. Please read and discuss the following passages of Scripture:
  - a. Proverbs 8:17 ...
    - (1) Did you notice the personal pronouns God uses to refer to Himself?
  
  - b. Jeremiah 1:5 ...
  
  - c. Isaiah 49:16 ...
  
  - d. Matthew 10:30 ...
  
  - e. Jeremiah 29:12-13 ...
  
3. So ... what conclusions can you draw from reading the above mentioned passages of Scripture?  

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4. Let's look more closely at some characteristics of our great God ...

## What God Is Like ...

1. Question: Have you ever heard someone speak of God as if He is their buddy?

How do you feel about that kind of attitude when it comes to thinking of God?

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2. We must never forget that God is our friend ... but we must never forget that He is so much greater than any of us!
3. Let's take a look at one of the Bible's pictures of our relationship to our Heavenly Father.
  - a. Please read Isaiah 40:21-26.

Questions: What do these verses say to us about God?  
Do these verses help you gain a better picture of God's greatness?  
In what ways?

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4. Now ... let's take a closer look ... a brief look at the God the Bible speaks of ...

### WE DISCOVER THAT GOD IS PERSONAL!

- a. Do you remember what God said to Moses when Moses questioned Him about what to say regarding God's name?
  - (1) *"I AM that I AM"* (Exodus 3:14).
  - (2) The name *"I AM"* stands for His self-existence and the eternal nature He possesses!
  - (3) He is the One who is/will be!
  - (4) You see ... He is the same God throughout the ages! Isn't that a wonderful thought to know? What does this fact mean to you and your life?

b. God is Almighty, self-existent! And when you read from His Word ... you discover His personality!

(1) Without the Bible ... one would never come to know these truths!

c. Can't we see God in the creation? Yes ... but we see His will for us in His Word!

(1) We see in creation ... His power and the evidence of His Deity!

### **WE DISCOVER THAT GOD IS MORAL!**

a. God has revealed Himself as One supremely concerned about right and wrong!

b. Please read Exodus 34:6-7.

Questions: What do these verses tell us about the God of the Bible?

Is He merciful? Define ...

Is He forgiving? Define ...



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Questions: Is He just?

What does "just" mean?



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c. The fact is ... God will not allow guilty people off the hook (Romans 6:23)!

d. The fact is ... somebody has to pay the price for the sin! That somebody was Jesus Christ ... our Savior and Redeemer!

e. Yes, our God is gracious and merciful ... but He will by no means clear the guilty without repentance and obedience to His will! Luke 13:3; Acts 2:37-39.

f. God's morality is clearly revealed to us through His Word!

## WE DISCOVER SOME WONDERFUL ... EXCLUSIVE ATTRIBUTES AS WELL.

a. God is infinite.

Illustration:

If you stand on the seashore and look out over the ocean or the gulf ... you have caught a glimpse of what infinity must be. You see ... the water goes on and on beyond the horizon. God has no limits ... no boundaries ... no beginning or end!

Note: This also means that His other qualities ... such as His love, mercy, and holiness ... have no limits!

Question: Isn't that something to think about? How do these qualities make you feel about God?

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- (1) When Job questioned God's wisdom ... just listen to God's response recorded in Job 28:4-7. The answer to these rhetorical questions was: Only God has existed forever.

b. God is all-powerful! And we get a real taste of His power when we look at His work as Creator!

- (1) Please read I Chronicles 29:11-12. Discuss.

Questions: What kind of picture do you have of God when He created the world?  
Isn't it difficult for us to fully understand how He did what He did?  
Does this mean it couldn't happen ... because we can't fully understand it.

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- (2) Please read Psalms 33:6-9. This passage tells us how He created this world!  
(3) Note also Isaiah 46:10; Isaiah 43:13.  
(4) God's abilities as a Creator are simply beyond our imagination ... but when we see His power and intelligence ... it gives us just exactly what God wants it to give us!  
(5) You see ... it gives us confidence to trust Him with our souls and our lives. (Hebrews 11:1-6)

c. God is present everywhere. Time or space does not limit the God of the Bible!

(1) King David wrote in Psalm 139:7-8 ...

(2) And God through the prophet Jeremiah said of Himself in Jeremiah 23:24 ...

d. And God knows everything! Think about that ... would you?

(1) God knows everything about everything! He knows the past ... the present ... and the future!

(2) Note Isaiah 46:9, 10 ...

(3) You see ... God knows every thought you've ever had!

Questions: Does that make you a little uncomfortable? It should! What would be a really good "thought" when you understand this truth for you to put into practice?

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(4) Note Psalm 33:13-15; 119:11.

Observation: The God who put all the stars in the heavens ... the mountain ranges under the sea ... who sees the millions of eyeless shrimp miles below the ocean's surface ... also sees what is in your heart!

## Let's Sum It Up ...

1. Question: How do you respond to the God of the Bible after discovering these truths about Him?

Are you afraid to approach Him?

Do you want to be considered a "friend of God?"

How do you really feel about all of this information we've discussed?

Do you believe that He really is mindful of each of us? Of you?

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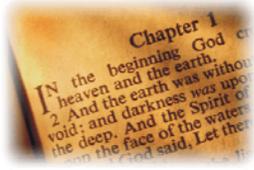
2. God is the awesome Creator ... but He is also your Father ... and wants to be your Friend!

3. The reason God wrote the Bible: He wants each of us to come to know Him ... love Him ... serve Him ... and prepare ourselves to spend eternity with Him!
4. Throughout the rest of this day ... think about the awesomeness of God ... and offer words of praise for His greatness and for all that He is!

***“O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens ... When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained ...” (Psalm 8:1, 3)***



truth  
for today's youth



## Lesson Five

**Text: “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”  
(John 17:17)**

# God Has Spoken ... The Bible Is His Word!

### Introduction:

1. Questions: How important is the Bible to you?  
What would you be willing to give up in order to keep it?  
Would you be willing to give up popularity?  
Would you be willing to give up friends? What about your life?
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Questions: Is the Bible *really* that important?  
Did the Bible come from God?  
Or, did men come up with the Bible by themselves ... and then claim it came from God?

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2. The questions that have just been asked are very important questions ... and we can and we must answer each one of them!
3. This question is being asked again: “What is or is not going to be the final authority for your life?”
  - a. What is going to be the final standard and rule of life and conduct by which you will decide how to live ... how to act ... how to talk ... and how to think?
4. If I was able to have just one wish fulfilled for each of you ... for your parents ... and for your friends ... it would be this wish:  
To recognize that God’s Word ... His Book ... does have the answers!  
The Bible is the final answer to our questions, and turning to its pages will provide something that absolutely nothing else on earth will provide!

5. Allow me to make the case for why the Bible is so special! Would you consider with me why the Bible qualifies as our final authority and standard to live life by?

a. You see ... we need to understand why!

## God Has Spoken ... The Bible Is His Word!

1. The Bible claims to be the very words of God!

Questions: This truth being so ... does this make the Bible the most important book in all of history?

If so ... discuss why it is.

If not ... discuss why it is not.

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2. Now ... the Bible claims that every one of its pages is *"inspired of God!"*

a. Please turn to 2 Timothy 3:16,17 and read ...

Questions: What does the word "inspired" mean?



Is this something special other than just being motivated to do something special?

How is being inspired to clean up one's room different from being "inspired of God?"

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3. Please turn to Luke 24:27-32 and read ...

a. Here we find two men talking with Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

b. And Luke tells us the outcome of this walk with Jesus in verse 27.

c. The term "Scriptures" occurs twice in this passage (Luke 24).

- d. "Scriptures" is a translation of the Greek term "graphe" from which we get our word "graph" today ... graph paper.
- e. The word means "that which is written." You see ... the "Scriptures" are the sacred writings!
- f. So ... when we learn to rely on the Bible ... we are relying on that which has been written!

Questions: What does the word 'rely' mean?  
Give some examples of "relying" on something or someone ...



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- 4. The point we must understand is that God didn't simply think His message ... He didn't just speak His message .. He didn't write in on the clouds!
    - a. God saw to it that His Word was actually written down. He "graphed" His Word!
  - 5. And the wonderful thing about all of this ... we have a Book that contains the mind of God ... the Scriptures ... in written form ... and in a language that everyone may understand!

Questions: Can you imagine if God had communicated His will in some way that no one could understand ... or in a way that only a very few could understand it?  
What kind of a God would this make the God of Heaven if He had been guilty of such work?

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- 6. Please turn to John 17:14-17 and read ...
    - a. Here we find a statement from Jesus Himself stating, "*Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*"
    - b. Jesus was saying God's Word was honest ... it has integrity! He was saying God's Word was divine counsel!

Questions: What is the difference between God's counsel and man's counsel?  
Is one just as good as the other?  
Can man's counsel be wrong?  
Can God's counsel be wrong?

Note: The fact is ... we ALL need truth! We ALL need God's "yes" ... and God's "no!"

### **Let's Sum It Up ...**

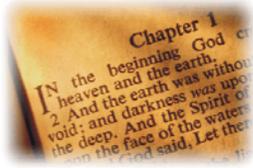
1. When we realize that the print on the page we are reading is God's Word ... is God's message ... it stands alone!
  - a. It's not just black ink on white paper!
  - b. God's Book is God's voice!
2. And when we read the Bible ... we are reading the words of God Almighty.
  - a. These words tell us of His wonderful nature, love and desire for all of mankind!
3. If you will apply yourself ... if you will make it your chief purpose in life to study and meditate on God's Word (Psalm 1) ... you will discover the most important things of life!
4. If you will be like the modern Indiana Jones who was always traveling around the world looking for treasures of generations past ... you will mine from the Scriptures countless treasures that will last you for a lifetime!
  - a. You will discover treasures in God's Word that will help prepare you to live a better and more useful life in this world ... as well as discover truths that will help prepare you for eternity!
  - b. Please read 2 Peter 1:3 and discuss the meaning of the words "*life and godliness*" ...



***“If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures;  
Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge  
of God.” (Proverbs 2:4-5)***



truth  
for today's youth



## Lesson Six

**Text:** *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*  
(2 Timothy 3:16,17)

# How God Chose To Speak To Those Of Old Testament Times

### Introduction:

1. Questions: Would it surprise you to know that we (mankind) have not always had the Bible as we know it ... that is in written form?  
Do you believe that God would have made the world ... created us in His own image ... without letting man know who He was or what He wanted of them?

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2. The fact is: it is important for us to know ... to truly believe ... that God has never left us without a word from Him!
3. The Bible claims that every one of its pages is inspired by God! (See opening text).
  - a. The picture Paul is painting in this passage is beautiful and crystal clear ... God’s Spirit breathing the exact words into the minds of holy and devout people like Moses, David, Solomon, Daniel, Isaiah ... and men in the New Testament like Paul, Peter and John!
  - b. And what they did with those words was write them down exactly as God directed them.
4. As we shall discover in this lesson ... God used different methods of sharing His words to the biblical writers.

5. Before we look at these other methods ... consider the following passages of Scripture ... one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament:

a. Exodus 31:18 ...

- (1) You see, the book of Exodus describes in great detail how God gave the Ten Commandments (by the way, can you name them?) And the rest of the Law to Moses. Note also Exodus 19:1 - 20:21 ...
- (2) Question: Did you notice in Exodus 31:18 what is said about how God did this? Doesn't it say, "*As the Lord finished speaking with Moses on Mount Sinai?*"

b. Revelation 1:10-11 ...

- (1) In this passage we find the apostle John having been banished to the Isle of Patmos because of his faith.
  - (2) Just read out loud what John records in this passage and discuss its meaning ...
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6. Okay, let's take a closer look at how God chose to reveal His word in distant times.

### **How God Spoke In The Past ...**

1. Consider the following:

#1 Did Moses have nothing better to do one day than to suddenly decide that he would record the Creation of the world? Did he say, "Well, let's see. I wonder how this whole thing came about. It seem to me that ..."

- a. This is NOT how it happened! God told Moses what had occurred ... and Moses in obedience ... recorded what God **revealed** to him, Genesis 1:1!
- b. This is **revelation from God** ... it is NOT supposition from Moses! Please define the word "supposition" ...

Questions: Can one's faith be based on supposition?

Should one's faith be based on "I think so's?"

If so ... how can you always be sure your "think so's" are right?

If not ... then why can't one's faith be based on "I think so's?"

Can “think so’s” and suppositions change over time?

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Questions: Does God’s Word change?  
If not ... why not?  
Who says it won’t change?

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Answer: Please turn to Matthew 24:35 and 1 Peter 1:25 and read ...

#2 Try and imagine the prophet Isaiah sitting down one day to write the following,  
*“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)*

a. Isaiah didn’t just come up with this ... this was **revelation from God!**

#3 Can you picture David ... the shepherd boy who became a king ... writing in connection with the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ, *“My God, my God, Why have you forsaken Me” (Psalm 22:1)* ... and writing it hundreds of years before Jesus was even born ... if it had not been **revealed** to Him by God?

a. A perfect description of the Crucifixion ... lucky guess ... a shot in the dark ...  
No way!!!

2. I tell you this: The Bible is NOT the result of men writing their own thoughts ... it is the result of men writing God’s thoughts!

a. The great prophecies in the Bible ... they came from God ... not from the speculations or hunches of men! Please turn to Matthew 16:17 and 2 Peter 1:21 and read ...

3. The heavens declare God’s power and glory (Psalm 19:1-6) ... but they do not declare His will or His plan of salvation for each of us that is found exclusively in Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12)!

4. Please turn to Hebrews 1:1,2 again and read ...

- a. God's "revealed" and completed (Jude 3) will tell us about God's grace ... mercy ... about our sins ... and how those sins can be forgiven!
- b. God's "revealed" and completed (Jude 3) will tell us about the church ... the body of Christ ... about the spiritual blessings that are found in His service ... and about Heaven as well as about Hell!

Question: Do you see why the Gospel is the "Good News" for us (See Romans 1:16)

- 5. Everything from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 is God's revelation to man! It is His revelation to us! And that Word came over time ...
  - a. When we read the Book of Genesis ... we get a part of the revelation of God!
  - b. When we read only the Old Testament ... we get only a part of the revelation of God!
  - c. Always ... God's Word is revealed from partial to complete! Never is it revealed from error to truth ... or from truth to error!
  - d. You see ... God was in the process of revealing what was to become the completed word of James 1:25!
- 6. Did you know that some of the Old Testament prophets looked at what they wrote ... and tried to figure out what it meant? Think about that ...
  - a. The apostle Peter tells us this is what happened in 1 Peter 1:10-12 ...
  - b. The fact is ... things predicted were to come later!
- 7. So ... we find God revealing Himself to a man ... then to a family ... then to a tribe ... then to a nation ... then to a race ... and ultimately to the world!
- 8. You see ... when God wanted to communicate specifically ... when He wanted to say something ... He would speak through the mouth of a prophet.
  - a. The man of God would open his mouth and say, "*Thus saith the Lord.*"
    - (1) Note Jeremiah 1:9 ...
    - (2) When Jeremiah opened his mouth ... God's word came out!!!

9. It is also very interesting ... even amazing ... to notice other ways God put His messages across. Note Hebrews 1:1,2 again ...

Question: Before going any further ... what ways do you remember that God gave His message in the Bible?

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a. Sometimes God communicated by the casting of lots.

Questions: Remember the story of Jonah?

What did God want Jonah to do?

Did Jonah cooperate at first?

What changed his mind?

Would this event have changed your mind?

- (1) God wanted Jonah to take a short ride in a big fish ... and God made sure it happened that way!
- (2) So ... the sailors on board the sinking ship cast lots ... and the lot fell on Jonah!
- (3) You see ... God made sure Jonah got the short stick!

b. God also communicated through dreams  
... as in the case of Jacob (Genesis 28:12-15).  
... as in the case of Joseph (Genesis 37:5-10).

c. Another very common way for God to communicate was through visions.

- (1) Daniel had both dreams and visions to learn the will and purposes of God!

d. At other times ... God communicated by speaking and His voice was heard. For example ... look up what He said to Abraham in Genesis 12:1 ...

10. But ... the process of divine revelation came to a close in the Person of Jesus Christ!

a. Please turn to Hebrews 1:1,2 and read again ...

b. He was God's Word made flesh! He showed the glory of the Father!

c. You see ... to have seen Him ... was to see the Father (John 1:14,18; 14:9)!

## Let's Sum It Up ...

1. All through the Bible ... the text is very clear about who its author is!
  - a. We read phrases like *"Word of God"*, *"Word of Truth"*, *"Word of the Lord"* ...
2. If we cannot believe the Bible is the revelation of God ... if we choose not to believe the Bible is the revelation of God ... if we have doubts ...
3. Then we have no foundation for our faith ... and no real standard by which to live!

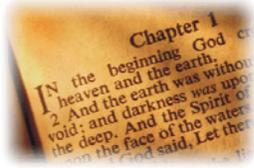
Consider: I would rather base my life ... base my hope on God's Word and find in the end there is no Heaven ... than to not base my life on God and His Word ... and sadly discover there really is a Hell!

4. Would you spend some time today thinking about these thoughts ... and would you consider how real they are in your own life?

***"The earth, O Lord, is full of Your mercy; Teach me Your statutes."  
(Psalm 119:64)***



truth  
for today's youth



## Lesson Seven

Text: Psalm 19

# Confidence In God's Revealed Word ... The Meaning Of Inspiration

### Introduction:

1. Questions: What does the word "confidence" mean? Define.



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Name some areas of life where we show confidence ...  
Do you want others to have confidence in you as a person?  
As a friend?  
As a child of God?

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2. Questions: Why do you suppose there are so many folks in the world who do not have confidence in the Bible as God's Word?  
Does it concern you that so many don't have the confidence in God's Word to believe and obey it?  
Do you believe in the Bible as God's inspired word?
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3. Questions: What happens if we don't have confidence in a car to get us safely to where we want to go?  
In the game of baseball ... what happens if the player doesn't have confidence in his swing ... what happens to his hitting ability?  
What happens to the trumpet player who loses his or her confidence to hit all of the notes at just the right time?

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4. Now ... in thinking about each of these questions ... let's apply these principles to a person's confidence in the Bible to be all that it claims to be.
    - a. The critical point of a person's confidence in the Bible ... is directly related to a person's confidence in its inspiration!

Question: What do we mean by this? Read and listen carefully ...

- b. Please read 2 Timothy 3:14-17.

5. Questions: So, how can we be sure that God's Word is just that?  
And ... if it is what it claims to be ... can we be sure it is free from error and deserving of our trust?
6. Let 's allow the Bible to speak for itself ...

## The Bible's Own Defense

1. In the content of 2 Timothy 3 ... the apostle Paul has admonished and encouraged the young preacher Timothy to be strong and maintain his spiritual priorities in the face of difficult times.

Questions: What are "priorities"?  
Do we all have them in our lives?  
How do we know what our priorities are, anyway?



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Answer: See Matthew 6:19-21 and briefly discuss.

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- a. Paul uses the word we've already studied about in Lesson Four, "Scriptures" in verse 15.
  - b. This is the same word used again in verse 16.

Question: What is Paul saying about the “Scriptures”?

Answer: He is saying that “*all Scripture*” (all graphe, all the writings of God) are inspired of God! He is saying all Scripture is “*God breathed*”!

- c. You see ... God breathed His word into the writers ... He gave them the message He wanted them to write!
2. So ... what the apostle Paul is saying is: all Scripture is inspired because it has been miraculously “God breathed”!
3. Paul is not saying God’s Word is “inspired” like the great artist Picasso’s paintings .... or like the sculpture of Michelangelo ... or like the writings of Shakespeare!
  - a. But “inspired” ... as in the breath of God ... “God breathed”!
  - b. The Bible is quite literally ... the words of God!
4. Please turn to 2 Peter 1:19-21 and read ...

Questions: Do you think Paul just sat down one day ... thought about it for a while ... and said, “Let’s see, I think I’ll write a book today ... I’m going to name it Philippians? Or what about Romans ... yeah, I think I’ll write Romans today.”

- a. Listen to the following point very carefully:

No prophecy **ever** came to pass because of the impulse or whim of the will of man! Period!

- b. The key word for you to know in this passage of Scripture is the word “*moved*” in verse 21.
  - (1) The English word “*moved*” is translated from an ancient nautical (sailing) term. It was used to describe ships that were on the sea.
  - (2) You see ... when a ship had lost its sails and its rudder ... it was at the mercy of the winds and the waves and the current of the seas.
  - (3) This meant that the ship moved along ... but not by its own power!
  - (4) Now, you will be wise to get this point ... the ship was still a ship ... but it was without its own power and energy!

- c. This is what Peter is talking about in 2 Peter 1:19-21. He is not referring to ships at sea ... but to writers of Scripture!
- d. You see ... they were moved outside their own power and energy as they wrote His truth!

Note: The process of “inspiration” included more than just ‘thoughts’ or ‘concepts’ ... but to the process of providing every word used by the writers!

5. Consider the following examples in the Bible:

- a. David wrote in 2 Samuel 23:2 ...

Question: What was David saying he was aware of in this passage?  
Do you believe him?

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- b. Jeremiah said in Jeremiah 1:9 ...

Question: Was Jeremiah telling the truth ...  
or was he claiming something he really didn't have?  
Do you believe him?

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6. Over 2,700 times, the Bible says something similar to “*the Lord said*” or the “*Word of the Lord.*”

- a. That is truly amazing ... isn't it!
- b. Most copies of the Bible ... depending on the size of the print on the page, etc, have approximately 1,300 pages.
- c. If you do the math ... that means that the Bible claims that it is God's Word over two times per page!

Note: Because the Bible is inspired in all parts ... not just some parts ... no one can say truthfully that the Bible is not fully and completely the Word of God!

## Let's Sum It Up ...

1. Questions: So ... what does all of this information we've just looked at together mean to us?  
Is there something we can gain from understanding these truths?

Answer: Absolutely!

We may be sure that the Word of God is found only in the Bible!

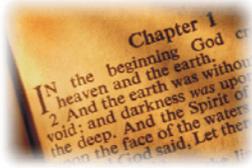
We may be sure that the Word of God will not be found in any other book! The Bible accurately reveals both God's thoughts and words to us!

2. Simply ... yet profoundly ... we may be certain that from beginning to end and all parts in between ... the Bible is the writing of the words of God!
3. God superintended the process of revealing His Word to man down through time ... to make sure there was no error in it ... right down to the very words of the original text!
  - a. A big word to describe this is the word "inerrancy" ... meaning 'without mistakes or errors'!
  - b. Very simply ... the Scriptures are wholly and totally, completely true in everything they affirm or teach!
  - c. That's something to put our confidence in!

***"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking Heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me Your statutes." (Psalm 119:9-12)***



truth  
for today's youth



## LESSON EIGHT

**Text:** *“But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.” (1 Corinthians 13:10)*

*“But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” (James 1:25)*

# The Relevance Of No New Message From God Today!

## Introduction:

1. Suppose you're sitting in front of the TV one afternoon channel-surfing and you land on one of those religious stations.
  - a. There's a man or woman ... telling the audience in front of them and those watching on TV that 'God has spoken to their heart one night and told them to "preach" the following sermon ...
2. Questions: Could this really be true?  
Could the Lord still be giving new messages of truth today?  
And if so ... what does that mean to all of those who didn't get to hear this new found truth?

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3. Please remember the following point: The act of revelation was always the same, a supernatural work of God in which He communicated divine truth to human beings that they otherwise would not or could not know!
    - a. The question comes to mind: Does He still do this today?
    - b. The answer from God's Word is an emphatic NO!!
    - c. There are scores of persons today who are self-appointed, modern-day prophets who claim that He does!
    - d. Reading from Jude 3.

- e. Please notice that “*the faith*” ... the body of truth known as God’s revelation ... has been deposited “*once for all*” into the hands of God’s people!
  - f. You see ... the transaction of revelation from God is finished!  
Question: If it is finished ... does that leave any room for new revelation today? Discuss the relevance of this point ...
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- g. We no longer need, nor should we be looking for some sort of divine message that would reveal new information!  
Question: If someone is satisfied with God’s completed Word ... would they feel the need to be looking for something else?
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- h. Very simply ... very concisely ... very pointedly ... all that’s needed for faith and practice has already been given. See 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

### Application To Our Theme:

- 1. Question: Are there degrees of inspiration?  
Was one writer more inspired than another writer?  
  
Answer: There are no degrees of “inspiration”!  
In terms of the Bible ... inspired means “God breathed”!  
  
Suggestion: Why not write “God breathed” in the margin of your Bible in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
- 2. Practically speaking ... either something is the Word of God ... or it is not the Word of God!
  - a. Knowing how God inspired people to write the Bible is absolutely essential to recognizing the trustworthiness of the Bible!
  - b. Knowing that God did inspire people to write His Book can lead a person with an open and teachable heart to believe what God teaches in His Book! Right? Right!

3. There are no songs ... no books ... no poems ... no visions ... and no sermons inspired (God breathed) today!
- a. Why? Because the canon of Scripture ... God's Word ... is closed. It has been completed! It has been finished!
  - b. Please turn to Revelation 22:18 and read.
  - c. You see ... since the Book of Revelation is the last book in the Bible ... if a person added anything to the Bible ... he/she would be adding it to the Book of Revelation ... and that is forbidden!

Question: What does "forbidden" mean?  
Does "forbidden" mean you can go ahead and do it anyway?



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- d. What is true with reference to one of the books of the Bible is just as true for all of the books of the Bible!
4. Please read and consider the following point: After the death of the last apostle ... and of those who were inspired to pen God's Word (such as Luke) ... there were no more Bible writers!
- a. The fact is ... there are no inspired writers today!
5. A person may use the word "inspired" in a general way ...
- a. You may say, "I was inspired to clean my room," or "I have been inspired to be a better person or friend or son or daughter," ... but that does not mean God told you to clean your room!
  - b. You may say, "I was inspired to write a poem about my summer adventures or trip" ... but that doesn't mean God wrote something through you ... as He did through Paul, Peter, etc.
  - c. Very simply ... for you to say that you got direct revelation from God (biblical information) would not be true!
6. Not one, solitary sermon of mine has ever been the "breath of God"! No one's sermons are!
- a. Truthful sermons are simply proclamations that are based on what has already been inspired by God!

7. Another very important fact for you to know is this: God does NOT speak direct revelation through me... or you ... or anybody else today!
- a. One of the fearful and dangerous lies taking place today in this world is ... anybody's "vision or voice from heaven or inspired message / book - falsely so-called" is considered by many to be as good as Scripture!
  - b. Not so!!!
  - c. And you must come to understand that such false claims and false teaching lead directly to a disrespect for the Scriptures.

Question: Can you see how dangerous false claims can be?  
Are people making false claims about God and His Word today?  
What about false claims in other areas of life?

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Question: Could I "claim" to be a governor or a congressman or some sort of military hero?

Answer: I could ... couldn't I? But claiming it doesn't make it so!  
You see ... I need to PROVE it!

8. The only inspired authors are those of Scripture!

### **Let's Sum It Up ...**

- 1. So ... can we rely on the Bible that it is exactly what it claims to be ... God's inspired Word? Absolutely!
- 2. Is God's Word something we can turn to and rely on when we go through the challenges and the difficulties of this life? Absolutely!
- 3. Is God's Word the place to turn to when we are looking for answers to how did I get here ... what am I supposed to do while I'm living here ... and where will I go when I die? Absolutely!
  - a. Please turn to 2 Peter 1:3 and read ...

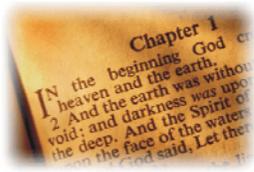
4. Jesus Christ said on one occasion in John 8:47 ...
5. The difference between those who will be saved and those who will not be saved ... one listens to and obeys the Word of God ... one does not!

Question: So ... do you listen to His Word or not listen to His Word?  
You make the call!

***“I thought about my ways, And turned my feet to Your testimonies. I made haste, and did not delay To keep Your commandments.” (Psalm 119:59, 60)***



truth  
for today's youth



## Lesson Nine

**Text:** *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”*  
(Hebrews 11:1-3)

Also turn to Colossians 1:16-17 and Isaiah 40:26

# Our Wonderful God Has Spoken ... And We Can Understand What It Says!

## Introduction:

1. Questions: Have you ever been in a courtroom?  
Or have you ever watched a court scene on TV or in a movie?  
What takes place in a trial ... for either innocence ... or guilt?  
THERE MUST BE PROOF!
2. Well ... let's listen to the following testimony and see if the Bible really is what it claims to be...

Questions: Would you listen?  
Will you be objective? Define ...



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## The Amazing Unity of the Book

1. Questions: Would the Bible be trustworthy if its message was not consistent?  
If it could be shown that it can be trusted ... shouldn't people trust it?  
Should they trust it completely? If not, why not?  
If the answer is Yes (the correct answer) ... how much is completely?  
Discuss.

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2. The Bible is actually a library of 66 different books ... written by 40 different writers ... over a period of some 1,600 years!

(1) The writers of the Bible included kings, farmers, shepherds, scholars, fishermen and priests! One was even a physician, and one was a lawyer.

b. You talk about an incredibly diverse group!

c. The first writer, Moses, died some 1,450 years before the last writer, John was even born.

d. All of these writers wrote parts of the whole ... that is never contradictory ... and which develops the same theme!

Questions: Could these writers have done all of this on their own and be consistent?

What does the word “contradictory” mean?

What does the word “consistent” mean?



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Illustrations To Consider:

#1 If a 40-piece orchestra should suddenly begin to play ... all playing in perfect timing ... perfect melody ... and perfect harmony ... it would be evidence of direction by a single mind. In this case ... a conductor!

#2 If 40 archers ... in 40 different places ... widely separated in time ... should shoot their arrows and all hit the same target ... “in the middle of the bulls-eye” ... it would be evidence of (proof of) direction by a single mind. In this case ... a starter!

#3 If 40 men ... widely separated in geography ... with different backgrounds ... and living over a time period of 1600 ... should each write a few lines ... and these lines when brought together constituted a beautiful poem ... it would be evidence of direction by a single mind!

3. There is just no other explanation that is sufficient to account for the Bible's marvelous unity!

a. It must be a divine production!

4. This would be a good time to talk about what the theme of the Bible really is!

Questions: If someone were to ask you what the theme of the Bible is ... how would you answer?

Do you know what the theme of the Bible is?

Do you even care? I sure hope so!

a. The theme of the Bible is the redemption ... the salvation of man from his sins ... made possible by God's grace!

b. The story begins in Genesis with the account of man's creation ... then the introduction of sin into the world.

Questions: Can you define "redemption"?

What is sin?

Is sin something we all need to be aware of?



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Answer: Please turn to the following passages of Scripture:  
Acts 20:28; 1 John 3:4; and Romans 3:23  
More in the next lesson.

5. The writers of the Bible lived under differing political arrangements ... actually different social customs ... and they were often very different in their temperament.

a. Yet ... when their teachings are correctly arranged on any subject ... they are seen to be complimentary ... not contradictory!

Questions: Isn't this really an amazing fact?

Doesn't this amazing fact make the Bible distinct from books that have been written by men?

In what ways? Discuss.

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6. Every book in the Bible connects to the other books perfectly ... not partially ... not mostly ... but perfectly (James 1:25; Psalm 19:7).
    - a. All of this perfect connection tells the wonderful story of love ... it tells of man's sin ... that he cannot save himself ... and that God can and will save all who want to accept and obey His will.
    - b. Please turn to the following passages and read:  
(Romans 1:16; Matthew 7:21-23; Hebrews 5:8,9)
  7. Only the God of Heaven ... the Creator of this world ... could superintend the writing of Scripture so that every line remains in total agreement!
  8. Very simply ... the Bible is unquestionably the book that God wrote!
  9. Believe me when I tell you that the Bible is absolutely true ... and it is without error!
  10. But just listen to the words of several biblical writers and discuss their meaning and relevance:
    - a. Psalm 119:60 ...
    - b. Hebrews 6:18 ...
    - c. Isaiah 65:16 ...
    - d. Jeremiah 10:10 ...

Questions: Does it sound like these writers had any doubt they were writing God's word?  
Do You see any hesitation or doubt in their words?

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11. Now listen to the words of Jesus Himself in John 17:17 and Luke 21:33 ...

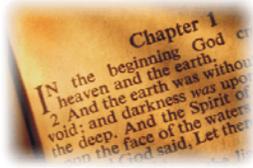
## Let's Sum It Up ...

1. Many years ago before the arrival of modern electronic navigational equipment (such as radar, electronic buoys and markers, etc.) ... there was a harbor along the coastline of Italy that could only be reached by sailing up a narrow channel with a dangerous shoreline on both sides. Those ship captains who were unfamiliar with the harbor's design or who chose to disregard the dangers lost their ships on the rocks! So ... to help guide the ships safely into port, three lights were mounted on three giant poles in the harbor. When the three lights were perfectly lined up and seen as one light ... the captain could safely navigate his ship up the narrow channel. If the captain saw two or three lights ... he was to know he was off course and in danger! You see ... the lights needed to be lined up perfectly!
2. These same rules of navigation that applied to this Italian harbor ... apply to students of the Bible!
  - a. Because all Scripture has God as its author ... all of its parts line up perfectly!
  - b. This is the wonder and the truthfulness of the unity of God's Word!
3. God's word ... you see ... is the only Book that God wrote!

***"Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."  
(Psalm 119:105)***



truth  
for today's youth



## Lesson Ten

**Text:** *“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”* (Romans 11:33)

# The Amazing Knowledge To Be Found In God’s Word!

### Introduction:

1. The Bible is by far the best selling book of all time! No other book comes close in the number of copies printed, distributed, reprinted, and being passed down from one generation to another generation!
  - a. This awesome Book of God ... well ... it has been translated into more than 1,400 languages and dialects!

Questions: How can these truths be so?

To what would you attribute the Bible’s ability to be so popular through the years?

Is it because it is just another good book?

Or is it because it is The Good Book?

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2. Let’s take a closer look into the vast amount of knowledge that is found in God’s Word ... knowledge that would be beyond the efforts of just men to produce!

Question: Would you consider these facts ... these truths ... with an open mind and with a receptive heart?

- a. Please turn to James 1:19 and read what James has to say regarding the “*hearing*” of what God has to say ...

Questions: What does it mean to be “*swift to hear*” God’s word?

How would someone be slow to hear God’s word?

Which one of these terms describes you?

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- 
- b. You see ... James is telling us that we should be eager to learn everything we can from God's precious word!
3. The question is asked in Jeremiah 37:17, "*Is there any word from the Lord?*" And Jeremiah said, "*There is!*"

### **There Is Word From the Lord in the Field of Science ...**

1. Now ... the Bible is not a scientific manual ... but the Bible reveals a great deal of scientific information!

Questions: Why do you suppose there are some folks who would like for us to believe there is a conflict between science and the Bible?  
Is there a conflict?

Observation: When the Bible speaks ... on matters of science or any other subject ... it is never disproved!

2. Many folks ... young and old ... have been led to believe that the Bible is full of errors ... especially in the realm of science.

### **Warning: You can't always believe everything you hear!**

3. Young people are being told in some classrooms to make a choice between an ancient book that is filled with unbelievable stories and fairytales ... or to accept that the modern-day pursuit of truth as science will define itself!
  - a. It is just not true that the facts (not theories) of science disprove the Bible!
4. Did you know that the Bible gives its permission to the work of science? Just read and listen to the words recorded by Moses when God spoke in Genesis 1:28 ...
  - a. In the very beginning of man's existence ... God tells man to observe, study, experiment with and subdue his physical surroundings!
  - b. So ... the call to pursue knowledge of our world comes from God ... not Satan!

5. Whenever the Bible speaks about a scientific principle ... it is exactly accurate ... whether the scientific community agrees with it or not!

a. You see ... it just might be that science hasn't even discovered it yet!

6. Let's consider just a few of the many truths that are found in the Word of God ...

Observation: And as we consider these truths ... we also need to be aware of this remarkable truth: in times of limited knowledge of the physical world ... and many years prior to their discovery by intelligent people ... our God wrote in His Word scientific facts regarding the world ... the universe ... life ... even how to have better health!

a. While we do not need scientific proof as some sort of prop for our faith ... it is always a good thing when science and the world catch up with the Bible!

(1) Many centuries before Galileo (1564-1642) claimed that the earth was round (rather than flat) ... the Bible declares in Isaiah 40:22 ...

Questions: How did Isaiah know this truth? Was it just a hunch ... just a lucky guess?

b. The man considered to be the father of oceanography (study of the ocean), Matthew Maury (1806-1873) was very sick ... restricted to bed. He asked his son to read to him from the Bible. While he listened to the reading of Psalm 8:8 in the King James Version ... he noticed the expression "paths of the seas." When he recovered from his illness, he went looking for those paths ... and as a result ... he discovered the continental currents. His book on oceanography is still being taught in many universities today.

Questions: So, did Mr. Maury discover something that just came into existence?

How did David know to write about "*the paths of the seas?*"

Was this another accident?

Was it just another lucky guess?

What do you think?

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c. Long before men discovered the science that deals with waters of the earth (hydrology) ... the Bible addresses the cycle of water ... evaporation into the

atmosphere ... collection in the clouds ... and then redeposited on the earth in the form of rain and snow.

(1) Please turn to the following passages of Scripture and read them:

Isaiah 55:10-11; Ecclesiastes 1:6-7; Job 36:27-28; Psalm 135:7.

(2) These are only a few of many that could be read!

Questions: Were these just lucky guesses?

Did these writers just happen to think about and write about these hundreds of years before intelligent men discovered them?

Answer: God made the whole cycle of water in this world ... and then He explained it!

## **There is a Word from the Lord about Medicine!**

1. The medical laws that protected the nations of Israel just could not have been discovered in their time on earth without Divine help.
2. Approximately 3,300 years ... that's right, some 3,300 years ... before the wonderful work of Louis Pasteur and his discoveries in the field of bacteria and the transmission of infectious diseases ... God required the following of Israel:
  - a. Isolation ... examination ... thorough washing with running water.  
(Leviticus 13; Numbers 19:7)

Question: Just how and where could Moses learn about bacterial infections or about the means of controlling them ... without help from above?

3. Blood has always been a curious substance containing mysteries and capabilities even yet to be discovered!
  - a. Doctors in the 21<sup>st</sup> century transfuse it, draw it, separate it, package it, store it, ship it, and sell it.
  - b. The medical community has not yet uncovered completely all of the wonders of blood ... they have discovered that it is the key to life! Yet, Moses reveals this truth in Leviticus 17:11 ...

Questions: How did the ancient leader of Israel come to know such information?  
Was it just a lucky guess?  
How could Moses have known almost 3500 years ago that life was in the blood ... while it took the rest of the scientific and medical community thousands of years and thousands of lives to grasp this truth?

Answer: The accurate medical practices prescribed thousands of years before their significance was completely understood provide excellent evidence for the divine inspiration of the Bible!

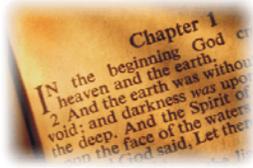
### **Let's Sum It Up ...**

1. God is our Creator ... and we are His creatures!
2. God never gave the creature the right to evaluate or judge the Creator!
  - a. Just listen to the conversation recorded between God and Job in Job 38-39 ...
  - b. You see ... God silenced Job's presumption in constantly wanting to ask these questions of God!
    - (1) There's a lesson or two for us in all of this regarding reverence and respect for Who God is ... don't you think?
3. We who are God's people don't believe the Bible because we're smarter ... because we're not!
4. We who are God's people don't believe the Bible because we have more proof! You can give proof after proof to some folks ... and they still refuse to respond to truth!
5. We believe the Bible is God's Word ... because God has told us so in His word!

***“ ‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.’ ” (Isaiah 55:8-11)***



truth  
for today's youth



## Lesson Eleven

**Text:** *“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” (Romans 15:4)*

# The Historical Accuracy Of God’s Word!

## Introduction:

1. Questions: This may seem like a really strange question, but, do you like to eat cheese?  
Do you like to eat swiss cheese?  
Do you know what swiss cheese is?
2. There are many people living in this world who look at the Bible like they look at swiss cheese in the deli counter!
  - a. You see ... they reason there’s probably a lot of good stuff in it ... but its got all of these holes in it!
3. One of the most comforting, encouraging and actually informative psalms is Psalm 23.
  - a. It is a passage of Scripture read and quoted so often that most of the world has at least heard its inspired message read or spoken!
  - b. But its in the Bible ... and they have heard that the Bible has a lot of mistakes in it (like the holes in a slice of swiss cheese)! At least that is what they think or even heard someone else say!
4. But this statement is just not true! The Bible is the inspired Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16,17)!
5. So ... as we continue our study of just some of the amazing knowledge to be learned from the pages of God’s Word ... let’s ask this question:

Question: Did the writers of both the Old and New Testaments really believe that what they were writing came from God?

Answer: Bible writers say over 3,800 times that they wrote the Word of God!

- a. Please read and think about the words Moses spoke and wrote in Deuteronomy 4:2a ...
  - b. Moses was saying, 'These are not my words, so don't you be adding anything to them or taking something from them!'
  - c. Later in Deuteronomy 6:1-2a, 6-9, Moses speaks and writes ...
  - d. What was Moses' point and what is our point to be considering?
  - e. Moses was saying the words he spoke were God's words and they were to be treated accordingly!
6. One other thing for you to consider is this:
- a. Question: Did the New Testament writers believe the Old Testament writers wrote the word of God? Absolutely!
  - b. There are at least 300 plus direct quotes in the New Testament that came from the Old Testament!
  - c. There are hundreds of times they refer to the Old Testament!
  - d. You see ... they believed that the Old Testament was the revelation of God!
  - e. Equally so ... the New Testament writers viewed the other New Testament writers as men who penned God's inspired word!
  - f. Take the time to read any or all of the following passages of Scripture: 2 Peter 3:15,16; Galatians 1:11-12, 16; Ephesians 3:3a; 1 Corinthians 11:23a; 15:31; 1 Thessalonians 4:15; 1 Timothy 4:1a ...
7. In light of these truths ... let's take a brief but closer look at two other areas of the amazing knowledge to be found in God's Word ...

## The Bible's Accuracy In History ...

1. The Bible asserts that the history of the world described within its inspired pages is both accurate and true!

a. Please define the following word: "Accuracy "



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b. Now ... define the word "Archaeology":



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2. Think with me for a moment ... wouldn't it be so that regardless of how much we admired the contents of the Bible ... if it lacked historical accuracy ... we wouldn't really be able to put our complete faith in it!

3. So ... does the Bible demonstrate its historical accuracy? Oh yes ... in every way!

Note: Another great proof of the Scripture is the historical accuracy! In all of history ... the Bible is by far the most widely referenced and quoted book! For example ... the New Testament alone is so extensively quoted in the ancient manuscripts of non-biblical authors ... that all twenty-seven books from Matthew through Revelation could be reconstructed virtually word for word from those sources!

4. Over and over again through the centuries ... the reliability of the Bible has been regularly and consistently supported by archaeology!
5. At one time many doubted that writing was even known in the days of Moses. Then the famous Code Of Hummarai was discovered at Susa, Persia. This Code contained some 248 laws formulated by the King of Babylon several hundred years before the time of Moses!
6. Some scholars once denied the accuracy of the Bible ... claiming that King David was just a fictional figure. They claimed that the remains of Egyptian, Babylonian and Assyrian cultures make no specific reference to him. But in the early 1990's ... an Assyrian stone tablet dating from the ninth century B.C. ... was found by a group of

archaeologists in northern Israel. It shows an Aramaic inscription listing Assyria's enemies ... and included in the list were the words "king of Israel" and "house of David."

7. Daniel's mention of the last Babylonian king, Belshazzar (Daniel 5) ... was at one time thought to be an embarrassing mistake. The last king of Babylon was Nabonidus according to recorded history. Tablets were found showing that Belshazzar was Nabonidus' son who served as co-regent in Babylon. Therefore, Belshazzar could offer to make Daniel "third highest ruler in the kingdom" (Daniel 5:16) ... for reading the handwriting on the wall, the highest available position!
8. The Hittites were at one time thought to be some sort of biblical legend ... until their capital and records were discovered at Bogazkoy, Turkey! These critics of the Bible claimed that the Hittites were just an imaginary nation.
  - a. Now ... we know about their culture, their art and even their geographical location!
9. Young people ... we could go on and on with one example after another ... but this should be enough to give you the confidence to believe that God's Word is just that!
10. Repeatedly, throughout history ... the astounding accuracy of God's Word has been confirmed externally ... giving each of us EVERY reason to respect it ... trust it ... obey it ... and enjoy the blessings that come from its truths!!!
11. But ... let's look at one more area of biblical knowledge that is so amazing ...

## **Proof From Prophecy Is Overwhelming ...**

1. One of the great proofs of Scripture is the **prophecies** that have come to pass years after they were spoken by the prophet and messengers of God! Their amazing accuracy leads us to the conclusion ... they were authored by God! You see ... no other book in the world tells us the future like the Word of God!
  - On the last day of the life of Jesus Christ ... He fulfilled no less than 33 prophecies ... made through many centuries of Old Testament history! The whole life of Jesus Christ was one of prophetic fulfillment. In fact ... in Luke 24:27 ... we find Jesus talking with the two men on the Road to Emmaus ... explaining how Moses and all the Prophets had written concerning Him!

- The time of Jesus' birth is foretold in Isaiah 2:2.
  - The place of Jesus' birth is foretold in Micah 5:2.
  - The work of Jesus' life is described in Isaiah 9:2.
  - His betrayal is foretold in Zechariah 11:12-13.
  - The fact that not a bone of His body would be broken ... the vivid scenes of His death were all spoken of very clearly in Psalms 22.
  - In sum total ... there are more than 300 prophecies finding their fulfillment in Jesus Christ!
  - Only with supernatural aid could Moses speak the wonderful and remarkable prophecies about the history of the Jewish nation. He spoke of the captivity ... and the restoration of Israel ... and other details that could only have come from God ... all of this recorded in Deuteronomy 28!
  - The Bible foretold the destruction of Babylon in Isaiah 13 ... and of the city of Tyre in Isaiah 23. The Bible called the name of the young King Josiah by name some 300 years before he was even born in 1 Kings 13:2!
  - The Bible even outlined the four empires that would be in power prior to the coming of Jesus Christ in Daniel 2!
2. The point we want to make is this ... David's prophecies regarding Christ recorded in Psalms 22 came true almost 1,000 years after he wrote it! How could David have known all of these details about the future? The way David was able to write with such accuracy is that God "*inspired*" him to write the psalm!
  3. This same truth being so with each of the prophecies regarding nations ... people ... Christ ... the church ... etc.!
  4. **No one but the true God can tell the future and be absolutely correct every time!!!**

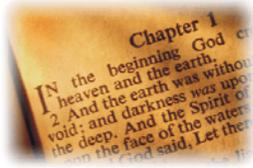
## Let's Sum It Up ...

1. Questions: Have you been impressed? Unimpressed?  
Are you overwhelmed? Underwhelmed?  
So ... what do you do with all of this information ... this knowledge from God's Word?
2. These are just some of the absolutely amazing scientific ... medical ... archaeological facts that are contained in this wonderful Book ... the Book God wrote!
3. But let me ask you this: Why in the world should someone be so surprised that the book that is truth (John 17:17) would contain truth ... truth on these and so many more subjects!
4. The Bible is reliable! It is trustworthy! The Bible can be depended on!
5. When we allow the Bible ... God's Word ... to be the standard for our lives ... we will not be swayed by worldly influences!
  - a. Trusting in God's Word as our Guide ... we will always search for the right way to think ... speak ... and act.
6. Would you be willing to make the words of the psalmist recorded in Psalms 119:105, "*Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.*" ... the words you believe ... and practice in your own life?
  - a. You see ... the sad part about all of this ... there's just a whole lot of people in this world who don't ... and who won't!

**Don't be one of them!!!**



truth  
for today's youth



## Lesson Twelve

**Text:** *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from, His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account” (Hebrews 4:12,13)*

# God Has Spoken ... Will You Listen?

## Introduction:

1. Well ... we've covered a lot of ground ... haven't we?  
So, what do you think about all of this?
2. There are some questions that need to be considered:

Questions: When you get older ... go off to college ... the military ... move off from your parents or home ... get married ... will you continue to serve God?

Why? Or why not?

Do you believe there is a place called Heaven?

Do you believe there is a place called hell?

What rules do you go by for your everyday life?

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## Additional Questions:

Do you feel that it is OK to lie sometimes?

If so, when would those times be?

Do you feel that it is OK to cheat sometimes?

If so, when would those times be?

Is it OK to watch shows like MTV?

Is it OK to smoke ... to use tobacco?

Is it OK to use illegal drugs?

Is it OK to abuse prescription medications?  
Is it OK to physically hurt someone?  
Is it OK to drink alcoholic beverages of any kind?

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3. Well ... that's a lot of questions ... isn't it.  
There's a reason for asking these questions ... namely, a number of young people may feel that adultery is wrong ... but think that premarital sex is OK!
4. God's Word isn't just a resource only ... it is not just a book filled with inspirational stories and helpful guidelines from which we can form our own truth to live by!
  - a. Please turn to John 14:6 and read carefully the words of Jesus Christ ...
5. When you hold a Bible in your hand ... or place it on your desk in front of you ... you are looking at God's breathed Word!
  - a. Very simply ... when you "open" this Book ... you are looking into "the perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25)

Questions: Did you ever stop to think that maybe this is why some folks don't want to spend much time, if any, looking into God's mirror for the soul? What do you think?

How does James describe the different ways people consider God's Word?  
Which way describes you?  
Could you do a better job of being a "doer of the Word"? Be honest!

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6. God's Word ... according to our opening passage of this lesson ... is the Book that knows you and me!
7. So ... how do we respond to all of this? What is my responsibility?

## What God's Word Will Accomplish If We Will Allow It To ...

1. We can be confident that when we are reading the Bible ... we are getting a reliable revelation of God! It is a perfect lens that allows us to see God for who He is ... and to see His ways for what they are!

Note of Caution: The apostle Paul warned the church at Corinth to beware of false teachers who could lead them away from the truth and the Lord (2 Corinthians 11:13-14)

- Questions: Do you believe Satan is real?  
Do you believe he is your worst enemy?  
How do you think Satan feels about God's Word?  
Will he encourage you to study God's Word?  
What about to obey it?
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Note of Caution: Our enemy, Satan, will do everything he can to keep the truth about God ... about His Son Jesus Christ ... about truth ... about salvation ... and about eternity from you!

2. Young people ... just because our adversary (1 Peter 5:9) couldn't prevent God's Word from being revealed ... and being completed ... and preserved for you to read ... doesn't mean he will stop hindering its efforts on our lives!
  - a. Satan cannot change the words that have already been written down in Scripture ... but he can try to confuse us!
  - b. Satan can and will try to cloud our hearts and minds concerning God's Word.

- Questions: Do you have any ideas as to how he does this?  
How successful is he?  
Has he been successful with you?
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Note: If Satan can convince us to ignore ... misunderstand ... misinterpret God's Word ... then he can successfully capture our hearts ... our lives ... and ultimately our souls!

3. This is why it is so important for each of us to listen to the challenge of Paul expressed in 2 Timothy 2:15 (NASV).

4. So ... in light of all of this ... just exactly what will this wonderful Book of God do for us?

NUMBER ONE: It will lead us to become “a friend of God” (James 2:23)!

a. You see ... Abraham was called the “friend of God” because his faith in God led him to obey God ... completely!

b. God wants each of us to be His friend as well ... in the sense of serving Him!

Questions: Who would be an enemy of the Lord?

Who would be a friend of the Lord?

Which term best describes you?

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c. Please turn to Luke 19:10 and read ...

d. You see ... God really does want us to be on His side.

NUMBER TWO: More than friendship ... God wants fellowship with each of us!

a. Please turn to 1 John 1:1,3 and read ...

b. “Fellowship” means ... participation and partnership.

c. You see ... God desires that we spend eternity with Him ... in Heaven!

NUMBER THREE: When we are in fellowship with Him ... we will be a part of His spiritual family ... the church!

a. Please turn to Ephesians 2:19 and read ...

Questions: What does “household of God” mean?

Is there really any other place we should want to be?

Why wouldn't someone want to be in God's household?

Are you in His household?



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5. You see ... friends ... fellowship ... family ... this is exactly what God desires for each of us! But God does not force His will on anyone!

a. It is up to each of us to hear ... believe ... and obey God's will. (Matthew 7:21-23)

6. God's Word will enable us to grow spiritually.

a. Please turn to 1 Peter 2:1,2 and read ...

b. God's Word is intended to produce growth!

Questions: Are there different levels of spiritual maturity among people both young and old?

What makes the difference?

Have you ever seen a flower or a vegetable plant ... an animal ... whose growth was stunted?

Define stunted ...



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Questions: What do you suppose stunts the growth and maturity of many Christians?

How can they start growing again? Or can they?

Are you growing spiritually as you should?

7. God's Word ... is His Word ... and in it ...

- ◆ He has established His precepts!
- ◆ He has affirmed the Bible's reliability!
- ◆ He has given a morality (sense of right and wrong) to live by!
- ◆ He helps us with our selfishness ... our greed ... our anger ... our tongue!
- ◆ He helps us with handling unkind words and deeds we receive from others ... when we're feeling lonely ... when we are afraid ... and on and on we could list the benefits of His inspired Word!

## Let's Sum It Up ...

1. Listening ... whether it is listening to a family member ... a teacher ... a friend ... or to God ... can be a challenge!
2. Sometimes things are said ... but not said correctly by ourselves or by others ... and misunderstanding takes place! But not with God's word!
3. Sometimes things are said ... things that are intended to hurt someone! But not so with God's word! See Paul's words in Acts 20:32 ...
4. Jesus warned some folks in His day that they were 'hard of hearing' in Matthew 13:13 ...
5. None of us should ever want to be 'hard of hearing' when it comes to listening to God! Because if we're not listening ... just from this lesson alone we can see how much we would miss!

***“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.” (Matthew 7:24,25)***



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## Lesson Thirteen

**Text: “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46)**

# What Kind Of Listener Are You?

## Introduction:

1. Jesus often spoke to the multitudes in parables.
  - a. One of the most familiar parables is the Parable of the Soils recorded in Matthew 13:1-9 and also in Luke 8:4-8.
  - b. And in this parable ... Jesus speaks of four different kinds of soils.  
Question: Can you name them?
  - c. Jesus went on to explain this parable in Matthew 13:18-23 and Luke 8:11-15.

Questions: What did the four different soils represent?

Which of these soils describes you?

Isn't it so that Jesus is talking about listening with one's heart?

What does listening with one's heart mean?

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2. Let's think about being better listeners to God's word ...

## Butterfly, Botanist, Or Bee?

1. Interesting caption isn't it! What in the world could a butterfly, botanist and a bee have to do with becoming better listeners?
2. Please read and LISTEN to the following:  
An old but graphic illustration tells of a man who looked out of his window at a beautiful garden full of plants and flowers. First, he saw a lovely butterfly, which would flutter from flower to flower, pausing for only a second or two before moving on. It touched many

of the lovely blossoms but derived no benefit from them.

Next, he spotted a botanist, with a big notebook under his arm and a large magnifying glass in his hand. The botanist would hunch over one flower for a long time, peering at it through his magnifying glass and scribbling furiously in his notebook. He stayed for hours, studying flowers and writing notes. Finally, he closed his notebook, put his magnifying glass in his pocket and walked away.

The third visitor to the flower garden was a tiny bee. The bee would light on a flower and sink down deep, extracting all the nectar it could carry. On each visit to a flower, it went in empty and came out full!

3. Question: What lessons do you draw from this illustration?

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4. The illustration really describes how people listen to the word of God!

5. There are three approaches to God's word that can be compared to the three visitors to a beautiful flower garden ...

Number One: We can be like the butterfly who moves from one flower to another flower.

- (1) We listen to sermon after sermon, move from one Bible class to another Bible class ... getting little of real value!
- (2) Doesn't sound like something I want to be compared to! Would you?

Number Two: We can be like the botanist who carefully studies each flower ... noting the details of each plant and flower ... but failing to find any real nourishment!

- (1) This doesn't sound like someone I would want to be compared to! Would you?

Number Three: Or, we can be like the bee who sinks down deep into every flower possible and draws the sweetness out!

- (1) You see ... if we are like the bee, we will look closely, carefully and hungrily into the Scriptures where we will find wisdom and truth and life!

6. So ... which one are you?

## **Decisions Must Be Made ...**

2. There are many important decisions that each of us must make in our lives! More than what we will eat or wear, etc!

a. We will make decisions that will determine where we spend eternity!

b. Please turn to 2 Corinthians 5:11 and Romans 14:12 and read ...

Questions: What do these two passages of Scripture say about each of us?  
Can we miss this appointment with God?  
Can we postpone or delay it?  
So ... how do we prepare for it?

3. The Bible admonishes and encourages us to believe it ... obey it ... and live by it!

4. Questions: Do you read and study your Bible every day?  
If not, why not?  
Do you ever spend time just thinking and meditating on God's Word ... on what you've been reading?  
Do you know that the way God made us ... we will become what we think about (Read Proverbs 23:7; 4:23).  
Is there anything better for us to think about than God's Word?  
See Psalm 119:97.

5. I want to tell you about a group of Hebrew scribes from long ago.

## **Illustration Of The Scribes and Reverence For God's Word:**

God preserved His Word through centuries of copying and distribution ... even before the invention of the printing press or the computer! He did so through His providence to insure that His precious and revealed Word would be available to mankind!

One of the ways He insured that His Word was relayed accurately was by choosing and cultivating a nation of people who took the Book of the Law very seriously. You see ... God commanded and instilled in the Jewish people a great reverence for His Word. Please turn to Deuteronomy 6:3-9 and read ... This attitude toward the commands of God became such an important part of the Jewish people ... that a class of Jewish scholars called the Sopherim ... meaning Scribes ... emerged! These custodians of the Hebrew Scriptures dedicated themselves to carefully preserving the ancient manuscripts and producing new copies when necessary. Another group of scribes, Masoretes, were so concerned about accuracy and reverence ... they would begin their day of transcribing by ceremonially washing their entire body ... and clothing themselves in full Jewish dress ... before sitting at their desk! As they wrote ... if they came to the Hebrew name of God ... they would not begin writing the name with a quill newly dipped in ink ... for fear it would smear the page! Once they began to write the name of God ... they could not stop or allow themselves to be distracted ... even if a king was to enter the room! You see ... the scribe was obligated to continue without interruption until he finished penning the holy name of the one true God!

## Let's Sum It Up ...

1. Without God's Word ... we would be without a handbook on living a life that God assures us will be a blessing (Psalm 1)!
  - a. Without God's Word ... we would be without a compass to show us the right direction to take (Psalm 119:105)!
2. God so wants us to know Him ... and that can only come from learning His will (Romans 10:17)!
  - a. Please turn to Jeremiah 9:23, 24 and read ...
  - b. When people focus on themselves or the things of this world ... when they leave God out of His place in a person's heart and life ... the Lord says, "You've made a big mistake!"
  - c. This is exactly what God is saying through the prophet Jeremiah in verse 23!
  - d. Are the things of the world the most important things to you ... or is coming to know the Lord better with each new day He blesses you with?
3. The Lord is telling us through the prophet in verse 24 ...
  - ◆ That knowing and understanding Him will make an unfaithful person faithful!
  - ◆ That knowing and understanding Him will change a person from being proud and demanding into being an humble and obedient servant!
4. Do you really want to understand His ways ... then begin today ... studying ... meditating and feasting on God's Word ... with the assurance that you will never go hungry again when it comes to understanding your origin ... your purpose ... and your destiny!

***"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, For they shall be filled." (Matthew 5:6)***



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