

THE VALUE OF THE BIBLE

Text: Psalm 139:17

INTRO: The Bible, the book in which God has revealed His thots to man, is the most valuable message ever made available to mankind. Much labor has been expended & many lives given so God's word could come down to us, after its enemies tried for centuries to destroy it. For the next few minutes, let us reflect upon the value of the Bible.

I. THERE ARE SEVERAL PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE THAT POINT TO THE BREAT VALUE OF THE WORD OF GOD.

Ps 19:7-11, 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 honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.

Ps 119:72, The law of Your mouth is better to me Than thousands of coins of gold and silver.

Ps 119:127, Therefore I love Your commandments more than gold, yes, than fine gold!

Deut 7:12-16, It shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers. And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain & your new wine & your oil, the increase of your cattle & the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you. You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock. And the LORD will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict

you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you.

Deut 6:24, And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day.

II. **THERE ARE SOME REALMS IN WHICH THE BIBLE HAS NO SPECIAL VALUE.** It has often been abused. Many claims have been made for it which are not true.

A. Some consider the Bible as a sort of good luck charm. They wouldn't think of not having one around the house—but neither do they think to ever study it. They seem to think that somehow just having a copy will benefit them. The Bible has no special value in this realm.

B. Some use the family Bible to press flowers. Some use it as a sort of portable filing cabinet in which to store all sorts of important & non-important papers.

C. All have probably heard of soldiers in battle who have had bullets to be stopped by a N.T. in their shirt pockets. A deck of cards would have done the same thing.

D. A lady in Springhill, LA insisted that a certain passage in the book of Ezek, when read 3 times, would cause bleeding to stop.

E. Brides often hold a Bible during the wedding ceremony, but unless the marriage is founded on its principles, it will do no good.

F. These & many other curious uses of the Bible involve areas where the Bible has no special value. But don't get me wrong. I am in no way detracting from the value of God's word. There has never been a greater, more valuable message than that which is recorded in the Bible.

III. **THE REAL VALUE OF THE BIBLE.**

A. The Bible is of great value to make us better.

1 Peter 1:22-23, You have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

1 Peter 2:25, For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

B. The Bible is valuable because its precepts make possible the blessing of our nation.

1. God's plan for making people righteous is revealed in the Bible, Rom. 1:16-17.

Ps 119:172, My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness.

2. Righteousness exalts a nation, Prov. 14:34.

Psalm 33:12, Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

Dan. 4:26, [Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar] Your kingdom shall be assured to you after you come to know that heaven rules.

3. Many great men have recognized these truths down thru the ages.

- a. A French statesman who visited America in the early 1800's wrote: "I sought for the greatness & genius of America in her commodious harbors & her ample rivers & it was not there. I sought for the greatness & genius of America in her fertile fields & boundless forests & it was not there. I sought for the greatness & genius of America in her public school system & her

institutions of higher learning & it was not there. I sought for the greatness & genius of America in her democratic congress & her matchless constitution & it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America & heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius & power. America is great because America is good, & if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.”

- b. Daniel Webster warned: “If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering, but if we & our posterity neglect its instruction & authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us & bury us & our glory in profound obscurity.”
- c. Andrew Jackson said, “That Book is the rock upon which this republic rests.”
- d. Truly, the Bible has great value in blessing this or any nation whose God is the Lord.

C. The Bible is of value in providing the only authoritative answer to our questions of man’s origin & his destiny.

- 1. Origin—Gen. 2:7
Gen 3:20, And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.
- 2. Destiny—Eccl 12:7; Heb 9:27; Matt 25:46

D. The Bible helps us face life’s problems.

- 1. Financial set-backs—Luke 12:15.
- 2. Temptation--James 1:2-3, My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

1 Cor. 10:13.

3. Afflictions in general--Ps 119:67, 71, Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word... It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.

E. The Scriptures provide us with all things that pertain to life & godliness, 2 Pet 1:3

F. They thoroughly furnish us to every good work, 2 Tim. 3:16-17.

G. The Bible teaches us how to live so that to die is gain, Phil. 1:21; Psalm 116:15.

IV. THE BIBLE'S VALUE DEPENDS UPON ITS BEING OBEYED. IT IS OF NO VALUE TO US UNLESS WE STUDY IT, BELIEVE IT, & OBEY IT.

Ps 19:7-11, 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 honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.

Heb. 5:9; Matt 7:212; James 1:25; Rev 22:14

CONCLUSION: The Bible is of value beyond our power to illustrate, but only when we use it as God intended. Study it. Believe it. Obey it. It will help you to be what God wants you to be, & you will be eternally blessed. But if you neglect it, eternal ruin is certain.

La Porte, TX, July 29, 1979

La Porte, TX, May 10, 1981

Exton, PA, January 12, 1985

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, June 6, 1993

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 12, 2004