

The Bible is the Book of the Ages

Lesson for Sunday, June 9, 2019

INTRODUCTION:

- Ask: What are some book titles that would be considered the greatest books of history?
- Follow-up: Outside the Bible, what have been some of the most influential books that you have read?
- Someone once said that who you will become depends on the people you meet, the places you go, and books that you read.
- One of the greatest habits you can develop is the habit of reading. The greatest Book you should read faithfully is the Bible.
- Adrian Rogers once said, “The Bible is not the “Book of the Month” or the “Book of the Year” but the ***Book of the Ages.***”
- The past four weeks we have tried to establish the inspiration, inerrant and sufficient nature of God’s Word. For the next four weeks we are going to begin looking at how to handle the Word of God (how to read it, study it, & apply it correctly). Today we are looking at four facts that we need to remember when approaching God’s Word.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. THE BIBLE IS A REVELATION FROM GOD (Hebrews 1:1-2)
 - a. In these verses, it teaches us that God has spoken in two distinct ways.
 - i. Verse 1 – “unto the fathers by the prophets” – that’s the Scriptures!
 - ii. Verse 2 – “by His Son” – that’s the incarnation of the Lord Jesus.
 - iii. NOTE: God has not continued His revelation to man. God’s special revelation to man ended with Jesus and the New Testament.
 - b. The Bible is a “revelation” from God to us. The root of this word is “to reveal.” Through the Bible, God reveals to mankind what He wants us to know about Him, ourselves, and the world in which we live. (*Use your board & handout.*)
 - i. The Bible is a revelation of four primary persons: God the Father, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit and Satan.
 - ii. The Bible deals with three primary places: Heaven, Earth and Hell.
 - iii. The Bible focuses on three classes of people: Jew, Gentile and Church.
 - c. The Bible was not revealed completely at one time. It was written “piece-meal” (“...sundry times & diverse manners”).
 - i. 2 Timothy 3:16—the complete Bible (“all”) was revealed by God (“Inspired by God...”).
 - ii. 2 Peter 1:21—God revealed His Word to men to write (“Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”).
 - d. In our first lesson we discussed the unity of the Bible. This fact can only lead us to the conclusion that God is Author of His Word.
 - i. 40 different authors over 1500 years...yet remarkable unity!
 - ii. No collusion possible...Illustration: Suppose 66 Doctors had written 66 medical books over 1600 yrs. How reliable would they be? How many contradictions? Why? Science and technology all change. God does not change (Mal 3:6). His word is true for every generation (Psalm 33:11).
 - iii. The Bible has One Author: God the Holy Spirit working through 40 people.
2. THE REVELATION IS PROGRESSIVE
 - a. God revealed Himself progressively over time—the revelation grew.
 - b. You see a progress in the areas of doctrine and prophecy.
 - i. The Judges knew more than the Patriarchs.
 - ii. The Prophets knew more than the Judges.
 - iii. The Apostles knew more than the Prophets.

- c. As a result, the New Testament is of higher revelation than the Old (though both are fully inspired). They are two halves of a whole...
 - i. You cannot understand Leviticus without Hebrews.
 - ii. You cannot understand Daniel without Revelation.
 - iii. The relevance of Isaiah 53 or the Passover would be unknown without the Gospels.
- 3. FOUR KINDS OF LANGUAGE USED IN BIBLE
 - a. Type #1: Figurative: Examples: "Harden not your heart..." "Let the dead bury the dead..."
 - b. Type #2: Symbolic: Daniel's Four Beasts (in Daniel 7), Christ walking among candlestick as seen in Revelation, or the Psalm that reads, "The trees clapped their hands."
 - c. Type #3: Literal: The customary rule of interpreting scripture is to use the ordinary rules of grammar, rhetoric, common definition of words, etc.
 - i. "If common sense, makes good sense, seek no other sense."
 - ii. Never allegorize or spiritualize the meaning of a text...
 - a. Illus: Events of Revelation applied to Roman times.
 - b. Illus: Sermon from Acts: Paul's shipwreck...made a fire...
 - d. Type #4: Mystery (16x in NT). Jesus spoke in Parables (Matthew 13:10-17, esp. vs. 11)
- 4. THE BIBLE IS A BOOK ABOUT JESUS CHRIST
 - a. Jesus is the subject of the Scripture.
 - b. He is seen in each of the 66 books.
 - c. He is the main character. As you read and study your Bible look for Jesus!
 - d. Chris Edwards sings a song you may remember called, "He Is." In Genesis, He's the breath of life; In Exodus, the Passover Lamb; in Leviticus, He's our High Priest; Numbers, the fire by night; Deuteronomy, He's Moses' voice.

APPLICATION: How do we take these ideas and apply them to our personal time in God's Word?

- THE BIBLE IS A REVELATION FROM GOD
 - This is foundational. If God is the Author and the Bible is what He wrote, that should shape the way we approach it. *Reverence, a willingness to obey, a willingness to know what it says...*
 - What an opportunity we have to hear from God! If Dabo Sweeney was reported to be coming tonight to speak at our church, we wouldn't have enough space to hold the crowd. Yet, every week we open the doors and invite people to hear from the God of the Universe; rarely is every seat filled.
- THE REVELATION IS PROGRESSIVE
 - As we study God's Word we must be sure that our interpretation matches up with the rest of Scripture. Scripture will never contradict itself. Be thorough when you study and read and avoid jumping to conclusions with looking at everything the Bible says about the topic.
- FOUR KINDS OF LANGUAGE USED IN BIBLE
 - We will talk more about this in the coming weeks. In short, we must identify the type of writing we are looking at: historical narrative, poetry, prophecy, etc.
- THE BIBLE IS A BOOK ABOUT JESUS CHRIST
 - Jesus is the Hero of every page. When you read a passage ask yourself, "Where do I see the Lord working here? What can I learn about Him?"
 - We have Jesus' life and direct teachings to learn from. For example: when you read John's Gospel you find Jesus saying, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." (John 6:38) If seek to learn from Him, we must acknowledge that I am here NOT to do my will but God's Will.
 - But every page and every passage we see the Lord. How about the familiar account of David & Goliath? Who was the Hero? Hint: It was the Lord. What do we learn about God from that Old Testament account?