

THE WORD OF GOD ENDURETH FOREVER

TEXT: I PETER 1:23-25

INTRODUCTION:

1. Over and over, the Bible is referred to as “the Word of God” (1:23).
2. Proverbs 30:5, 6 says, “Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him. Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”
3. In Luke 4:4, Jesus said to the devil, “It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.”
4. In Luke 11:28, our Lord said, “Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.”
5. The Bible is not the word of men; it is the Word of God (cf. I Thess. 2:13).
6. The expression, “Thus saith the LORD” is found 430 times in the Bible.
7. The Bible is the direct revelation from God concerning His plan and purpose for the earth and the human race.
8. Oftentimes, the Word of God is referred to as “Scripture.” Jesus said, “the scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35).
9. The Bible was written over a period of about 1600 years – from approximately 1500 BC to about 100 AD.
10. The Bible consists of 66 separate books: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.
11. These 66 separate books were written by about 40 different writers: kings, such as David and Solomon; statesmen, such as Daniel and Nehemiah; priests, such as Ezra; herdsmen, such as Amos; fishermen, such as Peter, James, and John.
12. There were educated men such as Moses and the apostle Paul. Moses was taught in the wisdom of Egypt, and Paul was taught in the Jewish Law.
13. Other men include Matthew, a Jewish tax collector, and Luke, a Gentile physician. And there are the great prophets such as Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Zechariah.
14. Yet one of the most amazing and miraculous things about all of this, is that after 1600 years and 40 different writers, there is an amazing consistency and unity. There are no contradictions and no errors.

1. **THE INFALLIBILITY OF THE BIBLE (I PETER 1:25)**
2. **THE INDESTRUCTIBILITY OF THE BIBLE (I PETER 1:25)**
3. **THE INDISPENSABILITY OF THE BIBLE (MATTHEW 4:4).**

1. **THE INFALLIBILITY OF THE BIBLE (I PETER 1:23-25)**

1. The word infallible means, “incapable of error,” so when we speak of the infallibility of the Bible, we mean that the Bible has no errors, and is completely trustworthy. It is infallible and incorruptible.
2. The word "incorruptible" is found four times in the Bible. In I Peter 1:4 it is used in reference to our inheritance, which is incorruptible and undefiled, “that fadeth not away,” and is reserved in heaven for us.
3. The word is also used in I Corinthians 9:25, where it says that at the judgment seat of Christ, Christians will receive incorruptible crowns.
4. Also, the word is used to describe our resurrection bodies in I Corinthians 15:52. At the rapture, our bodies will be raised “incorruptible.”
5. Also, in addition to being infallible and incorruptible, the Bible is inspired. Second Timothy 3:16 says, “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 perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”
6. “Inspired” literally means, “God-breathed.” Inspiration has been defined as the power of the Holy Spirit upon the human writers so that as they spoke and wrote the books of the Bible, they were recording the very words God intended to give them.
7. Second Peter 1:21 says, “holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”
8. “Inspired” means, “God-breathed,” and the fact that God “breathed” Scripture insures that the Bible is infallible and inerrant, because God cannot breathe out error! The fact that the Bible furnishes (or equips) God’s servants “throughly unto all good works,” shows that it guides us into all truth, not error.
9. Our Lord said, “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth using the infallible Word of God.
10. In John 17:17, Jesus prayed, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”
11. The Bible is God's infallible record to men, and the Bible is God's infallible rule for men.
12. Psalm 119:133 says, “Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.”

II. THE INDESTRUCTIBILITY OF THE BIBLE (I PETER 1:23-25)

1. It is incorruptible (1:23), and it “liveth and abideth forever” (I Peter 1:23).
2. “The word of the Lord endureth forever” (1:25).
3. The Bible is preserved (Psalm 12:6, 7). Some Christians believe in inspiration but not preservation; but inspiration without preservation is meaningless.
4. What was recorded by Moses, David, Matthew, Paul and the others is revelation. The way it was recorded is inspiration. And the way God has protected it for us over the centuries is preservation.
5. All of the Bible writers speak of the plan of God for man. The Old Testament points to the cross. The four Gospels bring us right to the cross. And the book of Acts and the epistles look back to the cross.
6. The book of Revelation tells us of the events surrounding the second coming of Christ. Everything recorded between the opening pages of the book of Genesis and the closing pages of Revelation was divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit.
7. Wicked King Jehoiakim thought he could get rid of God’s Word by cutting it up and throwing it in the fire, but God preserved His Word (Jeremiah 36:27, 28). The Word of God is indestructible.
8. Nearly a thousand books are published every day here in America. Many books are published in China and in Europe and other parts of the world.
9. But a very small percentage of these books survive more than twenty years.
10. And a much smaller percentage last a hundred years. But the King James Bible, published in 1611, is the best-selling and most distributed book of all time.
11. The fact of the Bible's continued existence is an indication that like its Author, it is indestructible. During the first three centuries of the Christian era, the Roman Emperors tried unsuccessfully to destroy God's Word.
12. Later on, the Roman Catholic Church took control of the city of Rome, and their pope and his priests started destroying copies of the Bible.
13. During the Inquisition, the Holy Scriptures were taken away from the people, copies of the Bible were forbidden to be purchased, and all who were found with a copy of God's Word in their possession were tortured and killed.
14. This bitter persecution went on for centuries until the time of the Protestant Reformation at the close of the sixteenth century.
15. William Tyndale was executed (strangled and burnt at the stake) for translating the Bible into English. His dying words were, “Lord! open the

king of England's eyes." His prayer was answered, and soon the Word of God was given to the people in their own tongue.

16. It has been estimated that about 90% of the King James Version is from Tyndale's translation.

III. THE INDISPENSABILITY OF THE BIBLE (MATTHEW 4:4).

1. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).
2. The Bible is indispensable because only the Bible tells us how to be saved. All other religions teach salvation by good works. A Jewish rabbi said, "We children of Israel are righteous. For the Torah says so. Of course, we must uphold the Torah, or otherwise we might cease to be righteous. But as long as we keep the Torah, we are righteous." (<http://www.beingjewish.com/>)
3. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that in order to be saved a person must believe in Jesus Christ, and be baptized, and receive the Eucharist (communion) along with their other sacraments, and obey all the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, and do good works, and make sure to die in what they call the "state of grace" (no so-called "mortal sins").
4. Sadly, even some Baptist churches teach salvation by baptism, or by good works, etc.
5. But the Bible – and only the Bible – tells us how to be saved. Paul and Silas told the Philippian jailer, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).
6. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).
7. The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (II Tim. 3:15).
8. Only the Bible gives us a clear picture of heaven and hell. Jesus said that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom (paradise), and the rich man also died, and went to hell, where he was tormented in the flames (Luke 16:22, 23).
9. Stephen Olford said, "We must believe the Bible is infallible and learn it; we must believe the Bible is indestructible and love it; we must believe the Bible is indispensable and live it."
10. John Nelson Darby said that even though "heaven, earth, the visible church, and man himself should crumble into nonentity, he would through grace,

hold on to the Word of God as the unbreakable link between his soul and God.”

11. Darby believed in the Bible -- and so must we, if the Bible is to mean anything in a day of human speculation and hopeless uncertainty.

CONCLUSION:

“The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good the design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents” – inscribed inside a Gideon Bible.