

DAY 1 (Week - Monday 29th April)**Read:** 2 Timothy 3:10-17

How much is your Bible worth? A person can buy one very cheaply. In fact the cost of a Bible is determined by its version, it's binding, the type of leather grain, the type of paper, and whether or not reading aids and supplements are included. Actually, your Bible is priceless, worth far more than you paid for it.

It is important who authors a book. The Bible claims God as its author, that God's Holy Spirit inspired it. This means that God so controlled the biblical authors that they wrote only the truth God wanted and without destroying the writer's personality or style. We read *"All scripture is inspired by God"* [2 Tim. 3:16]

Scripture reveals the principles by which God judges us. It will remain the supreme standard by which all human conduct should and will be tried."

As we have already stated, we believe the Bible to be the final authority on all matters of faith and practice. Not community standards, not television morality, but God's Word. What we believe and how we live is to be determined by the Bible. Our doctrines and our duties are to be determined by the Bible. Our theology and our ethics, our morals, are to be determined by the Bible.

How much is your Bible worth? Its value is determined not by how much you paid for it. It is determined by how much you read it, understand it, and obey its teachings. I challenge you, as those who love the Bible's author, to read it daily. To study it. To make it the guidebook in your daily living.

Prayer: Lord help me fall in love with Your Word. Amen

DAY 2**Read:** Psalm 119:97-105

Psalm 119 is easily the longest chapter in the Bible and it has this gem in verse 105 *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."*

There are eight different terms referring to the Word of God (Scripture) throughout the Psalm: law, testimonies, precepts, statutes, commandments, judgments, word, and ordinances. And then in almost every verse, the Word of God is mentioned.

It talks about many facets of God's Word and how it helps us in various ways. For King David there is love for the Word of God. We should be having this same attitude of love for Scripture.

What does love for the Word do in our lives? For David it brought *"delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word"* (vs. 16). He says it *"Direct(s) me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight."* (vs35) In vs. 47 he delights *"in your commands because I love them."* And he says *"I obey your statutes, for I love them greatly"* in vs. 167.

But David does not only love Scripture, He also realises that the love of it leads to *"mediation on His Word at all times."* Love for it encourages him to *"reach out for your commands, which I love, that I may meditate on your decrees."*

King David also was acutely aware that love of Scripture and meditation *"Leads to hatred for evil and brings holiness"*. Then asks rhetorically *"How can a young person stay on the path of purity?"* and answers *"By living according to your word."*

Prayer: O Lord guide me that I may hide Your Word in my heart that I may not sin against You. Amen

DAY 3**Read:** Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Reading this passage suggests to me that God did not want the nation of Israel to forget Laws they were taught and for good reason. God wanted them to prosper in the Promised Land they were about to enter and knew the only way was if they had His laws inscribed as it were on their hearts.

Bringing it back to our reality ... Our country, in fact the whole world, is on a pursuit for happiness. People are searching and we just need look at the pharmaceutical industry, alcohol sales, and the illegal drug market. This all in an effort to be just a little bit happier.

God promises us the desires of our heart, as He did to the Israelites, as we follow God and allow God to make our heart like His. The Israelites could easily be influenced by the other nations they would encounter in the Promised Land.

And so like them, God wants for us to realise the importance of investing time in God's Word. We need to remember that the Psalmist says it's not enough to read God's word; we need to "delight" in it, and we need to "meditate" on it.

There are certain actions we need to take. For example we read in Psalm 1 *"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers."*

The world woos us in one step at a time. Our friends shape us more than we care to admit. But knowing what Scripture teaches and warns against will keep us from the dragnet of evil of the world.

Prayer: Lord help me to love You enough to desire Your Word and to live by it. Amen

DAY 4**Read:** 2 Timothy 3:14-17

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

During His time on earth Jesus was under attack in many ways by the Jewish leaders. He was argued with, defamed and crucified. Many in our society are attacking Jesus as well, even from within some churches. Do we know enough about Jesus and His Word to recognize false teaching?

A carpenter learns his trade over a number of years as do many other tradesmen. But almost every trade has an essential ingredient. A carpenter cannot ply his trade without wood which is the essential ingredient for his trade.

If you and I wish to take CARE OF OUR SOULS there is also an important ingredient ... it is Scripture.

The question we should ask is: Do we get excited, and keep on getting excited, about Scripture? Do we still believe that God's Word is a resource for every age and situation? In other words are we convinced that Scripture is the foundation for our daily, moment-to-moment, lives?

We should get excited because Scripture is foundational to our daily lives because of its Author ... it is God-breathed. To put it differently it is infused with the life of God.

And since God Himself is behind Scripture it is the standard by which everything else is judged.

Prayer: *Lord my soul is empty when not guided by Your word. Teach me Your way. Amen*

DAY 5**Read:** John 5:30-47

“If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?” [Jn. 5:46-47]

If we are going to TAKE CARE OF OUR SOULS there are two primary reasons mentioned in this passage why we need to investigate the Scriptures.

First it is so that we trust and be encouraged that we have eternal life through them. *“You search and investigate and pore over the Scriptures diligently, because you suppose and trust that you have eternal life through them.”* [Jn. 5:39]

Our eternal life starts here on the earth, because we can still investigate and study the WORD of GOD while we're still alive. Eternal life as defined by the bible *“is to know (to perceive, recognize, become acquainted with, and understand) You, the only true and real God, and [likewise] to know Him, Jesus [as the] Christ (the Anointed One, the Messiah), Whom You have sent.”* [Jn. 17:3]

Secondly the scriptures testify about Jesus. *“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”* [Jn. 20:31]

We will get to know JESUS only through His WORDS. When His WORDS speak to us, we grow in Him. We can only teach what we know - teach, admonish, and train one another.

Prayer: *Thank you Lord for giving me Your WORD to study as my manual of eternal life here on earth and as collection of testimonies about You. Amen*

DAY 6**Read:** Matthew 5:17-20

Jesus had just talked with the disciples about being blessed and also about being “Salt and Light”. He now felt the need to address the elephant in the room... The elephant was the question that kept coming up, “What about the Law of Moses?” Moses had given them the 10 Commandments.

Jesus begins by clarifying His relationship with the Law of Moses and the Prophets...Jesus is quite clear that He *“did not come to destroy the law but to fulfil it”*

Jesus taught that the Law would remain [Mt 5:18]. How a person responded to the Law would still affect their relationship with God. In other words if we want to take CARE OF OUR SOUL then Scripture needs to form an integral part of our lives.

The next question would be: did Jesus fulfil the law?” the answer is if He DID NOT... then He failed - Mt 5:17 - and we would still be under the Law in its strictest forms! That would include stoning rebellious children, seeing women as property, not eating pork or duck, practicing circumcision...

However because He DID ... Jesus accomplished God's purposes and, as a result, we now live the NEW Law or Covenant based on grace, governing God's people today.

What does this mean for us? It means that through grace we can go to the Word of God and learn a “new and better way” to live for God. We have a “New Covenant based on better promises”

Prayer: *Thank you Lord for fulfilling the Law through Your death, resurrection and ascension just as you promised. Amen*