



“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105).

God’s Written Word

Truth: God’s inspired Word is the supreme standard for living.

Text: Psalm 19:7, 8; II Timothy 3:14-17; Revelation 22:7-10, 18, 19

"We believe that the Holy Bible is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction, written by men divinely inspired. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God will judge all; therefore, it is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true basis of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried" (Cobb's Baptist Church Manual, page 74).

The Bible is the written record of God's revelation of himself. It is not the opinions of men, but the truth of God. It is divinely inspired in its writing; therefore, it is perfect in content as well as authoritative in teaching.

The Bible was given without one single error in the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek languages in which it was first written. It has been protected and preserved by the providence of God so that we may accept versions in our English language with full confidence that they are the Word of God today. God gave the revelation, superintended the writing, and protected the message to this very day. Therefore, the Bible is our sole authority in what to believe and how to behave. We can trust our Bible.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE BIBLE (Psalm 19:7-9)

No other single passage of Scripture describes the nature and function of the Bible as well as Psalm 19:7-11. It will be helpful to pause here and do a little assignment. Take a sheet of paper and divide it into three columns going up and down, with six lines going across. At the top of the first

column write the word titles, on the second write qualities, and on the third write effects. Then read Psalm 19:7-9 and fill in the titles, qualities, and effects of the Word of God as described there. Now, read on here.

A. There are five descriptive titles given the Word of God in Psalm 19:7-9.

1. As "*law*" it states the principles and directions which govern our conduct. "*The LORD thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul*" (Deuteronomy 26:16).

2. As "*testimony*" it is the statement of established truth. They are completely dependable (Psalm 119:138).

3. As "*statutes*" it contains the principles of law established by proper authority which govern human conduct (Deuteronomy 4:4, 5).

4. As "*commandments*" it reveals the word issued by one having absolute authority. He whose word effected creation of the universe must be heeded and obeyed (Psalm 33:9). Look at the power of His spoken words in Genesis 1, "*God said . . . : and it was so.*"

5. As "*fear*" it arouses reverent awe at God's warnings and promises set forth in His Word (Deuteronomy 10:12). Because of awe for God, we reverence His Word and obey its precepts.

God's written Word is His law, testimony, statutes, commandment, and fear. What a book it is! It speaks to every area of human life and deals with every issue we face. It is the infallible Word of God in the language of men.

B. There are six distinct qualities of the Word of God mentioned in Psalm 19:7-9.

1. The Bible is "*perfect*" in that it is complete, entire, upright, and blameless. "*Thy law is the truth*" (Psalm 119:142). We would not claim perfection for particular versions of the Bible, but we know the original manuscripts were total truth.

2. The Bible is "*sure*" in that it is reliable and certain; it is safe to lean upon it. "*Thy testimonies are very sure*" (Psalm 93:5).

3. The Bible is "*right*" in that it is straight, upright, just, and without error. It partakes of the qualities of its author (Genesis 18:25). "*I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right*" (Psalm 119:128). What a book!

4. It is "*pure*" in that it is bright, shining, and glistening because it is so free from any evil. "*The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace . . . purified seven times*" (Psalm 12:6).

5. It is "*clean*" in that it is pure and produces purity in those who obey it (Psalm 25:12; Acts 10:35). No one has ever been led into any kind of sin

by following the Bible.

6. It is *"true and righteous altogether."* What a testimony! It is true in that it is faithful, honest, and just. It has always been so and will always remain so (Psalm 119:160).

It is righteous in that it is just and produces a right lifestyle. One cleanses his way by taking heed thereto according to God's Word (Psalm 119:9). His judgments are *"righteous judgments"* (Psalm 119:7, 62, 106).

You can trust a book that is perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, true and righteous altogether. But the only book in human libraries which meets those qualities is the Holy Bible.

C. There are five blessed effects of the Word of God recorded in Psalm 19:7-9.

1. The Word converts the soul to turn the sinner to the Savior (Matthew 18:3; Acts 3:19; James 5:20). We are *"born again . . . by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever"* (I Peter 1:23).

2. The Word makes wise the simple by teaching divine truth (Psalm 34:11; Proverbs 1:7; II Kings 17:28). We know God through the Bible.

3. The Word rejoices the heart as one understands and responds to it. *"Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart"* (Jeremiah 15:16). (See also Isaiah 61:10; I Peter 1:8.)

4. The Word enlightens the eyes. God will *"light my candle"* and *"enlighten my darkness"* as I give attention to His Word (Psalm 18:28).

5. The Word will endure forever. It is settled forever in heaven (Psalm 119:89). *"The word of our God shall stand for ever"* (Isaiah 40:8), even longer than the heaven and the earth (Matthew 5:18).

What a book is our Bible! Where can you find another like it? Examine its titles, qualities, and effects and rejoice that we have such a book of God to guide us into truth. Read it: Meditate on it. Memorize portions of it. Stay close to God by staying close to His Word.

II. RELATION TO THE BIBLE (II Timothy 3:14-17)

A. The Bible is the text for our study (verses 14, 15). Jesus emphasized that theme when He said, *"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me"* (John 5:39). What we know about the Bible must be taught to our children to make them wise unto salvation from their childhood (II Timothy 3:15). We and our children must be "assured" of spiritual things according to the Word (II Timothy 3:14). *"Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail"* (Isaiah 34:16). Set a daily time when you meet God in Bible

study.

B. The Bible is our guide. *"Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of"* (verse 14). The "blessed man" keeps himself free from sin and meditates on the Word of God day and night (Psalm 1:1-3). The purpose of all study is *"that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written"* in the Bible (Joshua 1:8). Live according to what you learn in the Bible.

C. The Bible tells us of salvation. It is *"able to make thee wise unto salvation"* (verse 15). Jesus said he who (1) hears the word and (2) believes on the Father who sent Him (3) has eternal life and (4) shall never come into condemnation (John 5:24). The Bible reveals Jesus the Savior (Revelation 1:1; John 5:39). We are *"born again . . . by the word of God"* in that the Bible tells us of our need and God's provision in Jesus (I Peter 1:23).

D. The Bible is God speaking in the written Word. That is what *"inspiration"* means. The Bible is *"God-breathed,"* the breath of God as your voice is your breath (verse 16). No part of Holy Scripture has come *"by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost"* (II Peter 1:21). The Bible is the record of the words God himself has spoken (Jeremiah 36:2). It is as much His word in written form as it would be if we could hear Him speak. To hearken to the Bible is to hearken to God. To reject the Bible is to reject God. The Bible is God's message to us today.

E. The Bible exercises a profitable ministry (verse 16). It is profitable for teaching, providing the content of the message we deliver. It is profitable to refute error, setting forth the truth. It is profitable for guiding our lives, correcting us when we go wrong and showing us the right way. It is profitable to instruct us in the way of righteousness. Blessed is the person who experiences that ministry of the Word of God day by day.

F. The Bible leads us to the goal of being equipped for Christian service (verse 17). That is its goal. Through our spiritual leaders we are directed until *"we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ"* (Ephesians 4:13).

III. PERFECTION OF THE BIBLE (Revelation 22:7-10, 18, 19)

A. The perfection of the Bible is seen in the blessings it brings for obedience (verse 7). God promises, *"Then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success"* (Joshua 1:8). God promises of the doer of the Word, *"This man shall be blessed in his deed"* (James 1:25). The right to the tree of life and the privilege of entering into

the gates of the heavenly city are rewards for faithful obedience to the Bible (Revelation 22:14).

B. The perfection of the Bible is seen in its being understandable (verse 10). The Bible is not a "closed book." Its sayings are not kept from us. The Holy Spirit of God is in the world to teach believers the truth of Jesus Christ (John 16:14, 15). God answers the prayer of everyone who prays, *"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law"* (Psalm 119:18). You can know the Bible if you study it with an open heart.

C. The perfection of the Bible is seen in the completeness of its content (verses 18, 19). Nothing needs to be added to it, so there will be no further revelation. Nothing needs to be taken from it, so the whole of it is true. The judgment of God is certain to fall on one who trifles with its content. We are but to obey it (Deuteronomy 12:32).

All that is said about the Bible in these comments refers to that Bible you have at hand now. Treat it with respect; it is the Word of God. Read it to be wise. Obey it to be holy. Believe it to be saved. It is the written record of God's revelation of himself to mankind. This is the very Word of God which by the gospel is preached to you.

1. What is the Bible?
2. What titles are given the Bible in Psalm 19:7-9?
3. How is the Bible described in that passage?
4. What effects does the Bible have in that text?
5. How are we guided by the Bible?
6. How do we know the Bible is reliable today?
7. What is the ministry of the Bible according to II Timothy 3:16?
8. How does the Bible equip us for spiritual service?
9. What does the testimony of Revelation 22:18, 19 mean to you?
10. How can you make yourself a better student of the Bible?