

Lesson 10

THE BIBLE

DOES THE BIBLE HAVE POWER TO CHANGE LIVES?

INTRODUCTION:

The secular world has laid the Bible aside as being unreliable, because what it teaches does not always coincide with the unfounded pronouncements that emanate from the scientific community. Dr. Bert Thompson wrote:

*“There are growing indications that as our scientific prowess has grown, our ever increasing knowledge of the creation has diminished, or replaced completely, our knowledge of the **Creator**. This situation has manifested itself in both the secular and spiritual realms.*

*As scientists have enjoyed increasingly more frequent and more impressive successes, an attitude has developed suggesting that science, and science alone, can provide answers to all life’s questions.” (“The Folly of Being Scientifically Learned, but Biblically Ignorant,” **Reason and Revelation** Vol. XVI, No. 4, 1996 p. 26)*

The Bible is an amazing book. The Bible is amazing in that it stands up to many tests of authenticity. But it is particularly amazing when looked at from a spiritual and moral perspective.

The Bible claims to be alive and powerful. Paul wrote in Romans 1:16:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”
NAS

The Hebrew writer emphasized in Hebrews 4:12:

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”
NAS

The Psalmist describes the Word of God in Psalms 19:7-9:

“The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts 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; they are righteous altogether.”
NAS

Perhaps the most comprehensive passage dealing with the Word of God is found in 2 Timothy 3:15-4:4:

“and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be

adequate, equipped for every good work. I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.” NAS

There is one more passage I want us to look at. It is Luke 16:27-31 and this is a part of the story of a certain rich man and Lazarus. The rich man wanted Abraham to send Lazarus back to talk to his brothers and warn them to change their lives “...lest they also come into this place of torment.” *Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"*

The words “*Moses and the prophets*” represent God’s written message to man at that time, and the only thing required of anyone was simply to hear and obey Moses and the prophets. That would make the difference between heaven and hell, and that was the only thing that would make that difference.

THE RELIGIOUS WORLD DOES NOT AGREE

The truth with reference to the power of the Bible to change the lives of men strikes at the heart of all kinds of religious error:

Ask the **Roman Catholic** if he/she believes the Bible has the power to change men’s lives, and he/she will tell you the Bible is not a complete guide, but that man must also depend on the official pronouncements of the church and upon church tradition. (Refer to Lesson 8 page 84)

The **Mormon** will say that he/she believes the Bible is God’s Word, but that the writings of Joseph Smith are also the Word of God, and that man must have both.

Ask the **Calvinist** if he/she believes the Bible has the power to change men’s lives, and he/she will reply “No.” They think the only thing that can change a man’s life is an irresistible act of God’s grace, which removes the sinful nature and sets the sinner on the road to heaven. Once the sinner is saved by that act of grace, he can never again be lost.

When the **conservative denominationalist** is approached regarding whether he/she believes the Bible has the power to change men’s lives, they will reply, “Yes, but not the Bible alone.” They only pay lip service to the Bible being adequate. What the Bible actually says really does not settle matters with them. Their own subjective leadings, inner feelings, hunches, and experiences are depended upon far more than anything the Bible might say.

No false religion can succeed while strictly adhering to the Bible. One can not build up the Catholic Church by getting people to just follow the Bible. Just getting people to follow the Bible would never advance the cause of Mormonism, nor of Calvinism. Denominationalism can never be built and maintained by just getting people to follow the Bible. It takes something in addition to the Bible to build a false religion like those just mentioned or any other false religion.

GOD'S MESSAGE TO MAN COMMUNICATED BY SPEAKING WORDS

It has always been the case that God communicates His will or His message to man by speaking words to him:

How did Adam and Eve know that God did not want them to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil? Was it some kind of hunch, some inner leading, or some experience they had? No. It was by virtue of the fact that God had said:

Gen 2:16-17 *“And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”*

How did Noah know that God was going to destroy all flesh with a great flood, and that he was to build an ark? Did he build the ark because of some felt need, or some inner leading? No. It was because that is precisely what God told him to do.

Gen 6:13-14 *So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.”*

What made Abraham leave Ur of the Chaldees and move into the land of Canaan? The answer is in Genesis 12:1:

Gen 12:1 *The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.”*

Abraham's move into Canaan was not based on some subjective feeling, or some experience he had, but upon the word of the Lord. What God had said was the only thing required to get Abraham to do what he did.

The giving of the Ten Commandments is prefaced by these words: **“And God spake all these words, saying...”** (Exodus 20:1). And then the Ten Commandments themselves are given in words. Now I ask you, if a man obeys the words, **“Thou shalt have no other gods before me,”** then what else would he have to have or do in order to be obedient to the first commandment? If he obeyed the words, **“Thou shalt not kill,”** then what else would he have to have or do in order to obey the sixth commandment?

It has always been the case that God's law is made up of what God says, that and nothing else. Where did the idea come from that God's leadership of man was ever in any other way? Some talk about being led by the Spirit of God, without understanding that the only means by

which the Spirit of God has ever led anyone is by speaking to him. During the days of the Old Testament prophets Nehemiah wrote:

Neh 9:30 *“For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit you admonished them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you handed them over to the neighboring peoples.”*

David said in II Sam. 23:2, **“The spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was on my tongue.”** Notice that David did not say the Spirit caused him to have some hunch or some feeling, but that the Spirit spoke by him, putting words on his tongue.

In the prophetic books of the Old Testament the phrases **“the word of the Lord”** and **“thus saith the Lord”** are found more than five hundred times, not to mention such phrases as **“the Lord said,”** and **“the Lord spake.”** While we have used this fact to emphasize that the Bible is not a human production, and that it is really the Word of God, it needs to be emphasized that the **Bible message** is contained in **words**. All anyone knows about the will of God is contained in the words of the Bible. That is all anyone needs to know to get from this earth to heaven. Read what Paul said in Ephesians 3:2-5:

“if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you; that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;” NAS

Notice that Paul said, God revealed it to him, that he had written briefly, and that the Ephesians could read it and understand it. Now if they read it, understood, and obeyed it, **what else would be needed on their part?**

We are not discussing whether or not changes must take place in sinful man in order to fit him for heaven. The question is, **can the Bible accomplish those changes**, or are they changes that must be accomplished by **something other than the Bible?**

THE BIBLE IS ADEQUATE

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 for ever: 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 is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”* (KJV)

God's glory, (that is His goodness to man) appears much in the works of creation, but much more in and by Divine Revelation. The Holy Scripture, as it is a rule both of our duty to God and of our expectation from Him, is of much greater use and benefit to us than day or night, than the air we breathe, or the light of the sun. The discoveries made of God by His works might

have served if man had retained his integrity; but, to recover him out of the fallen state, another course must be taken; and that must be done by the word of God. The Psalmist gives an account of the excellent properties and uses of the Word of God, in six sentences (vv. 7-9), in each of which the name Jehovah is repeated, for the law has its authority and all its excellency from the lawmaker. **Let's notice each of the wonderful things said by the Psalmist about the Word of God.**

THE BIBLE IS PERFECT

Notice first, "*the law of the Lord.*" This is a Hebrew term used to define Scripture. The writer here specifies that "*the law of the Lord*" is "*perfect*" – a comprehensive treatment of truth that is able to transform the soul. It is complete, there is nothing left out. It is comprehensive; it does everything that we need it to do. There is no part of your life, no problem that you will ever face in your life, no question with which you will ever be troubled, that the Word of God does not speak to and meet. Remember that Jesus spoke of "*rivers of living water,*" (John 7:38) which would be available to buoy up the human spirit and to meet its need. That is exactly what the Word of God is designed to do for us. The Hebrew word translated "*soul*" (nepesh) refers to the total person. It means the real you—not just your body but what is inside. Therefore, the writer means that Scripture can totally transform (change) a person.

You may say, "*I'm not really interested in being transformed.*" Then you probably aren't interested in the Bible. The Bible is for people who have some sense of desperation about where they are. It is for people who don't have the purpose in their lives they wish they had. They're not sure where they are, where they came from, or where they're going. There are things in their lives they wish they could change. They wish they weren't driven by passions they can't control. They wish they weren't victims of circumstances. They wish they didn't have so much pain in life. They wish their relationships were all they ought to be. They wish they could think more clearly about things that matter in their lives. That's whom this book is for: people who don't have all the answers and who want something better.

The Bible teaches that the key to this transformation is the **Lord Jesus Christ**. God came into the world in the form of Christ. He died on a cross to pay the penalty for your sins and mine and rose again to conquer death. He now lives and comes into the lives of those who acknowledge Him as their Lord and Savior by obeying Him, thereby transforming them into the people God wants them to be. If you are content with the way you are, you are not going to look to the Word of God for a way to change. But, if you are aware of your guilt, if you want to get rid of your anxiety and the patterns of life that desperately need to be changed, if you have some emptiness in your heart, if there is some longing that has never been satisfied, and if there are some answers you just can't seem to find, then you are just the person to look into the Word of God.

Millions are living proof that the Word of God can transform a person completely through the power of Christ, the One who died and rose again.

THE BIBLE IS SURE

Psalms 19 also says that the Scripture is "**sure**"—**absolute, trustworthy, reliable**—you can count upon this word to be true. Therefore, you do not need to know a lot about everything else. Please understand that the Bible is not against knowledge; it is only against knowledge that does not begin at the right place (Proverbs 9:10). Notice the phrase "**making wise the simple.**"

The Hebrew word translated “*simple*” comes from a root that speaks of an open door. Ancient Jewish people described a person with a simple mind as someone with a head like an open door: everything comes in; everything goes out. He doesn’t know what to keep out and what to keep in. He’s indiscriminate, totally naïve, and unable to evaluate truth. He doesn’t have any standards by which to make a judgment.

The Bible says it is able to make such a person wise. Wisdom to the Jew was the skill of daily living. To the Greek it was sheer sophistry—an abstraction. So when the Hebrew text says it can make a simple person wise, it means it can take the uninitiated, naïve, uninstructed person who’s undiscerning and unskilled and make him skilled in every aspect of daily living. What a fantastic promise.

The Bible touches every area of life. You want to know about relationships? It deals with that. You want to know about marriage? It touches that. You want to know about a work ethic? It speaks of that. You want to know about the factors of the human mind? You want to know about motive? You want to know why you do what you do and how to do it better? You want to know how to get the most out of your life? You want to know what you’re to live for? It’s all there. The matters of skill in daily living are all there. It tells you about attitudes, reactions, responses, how to treat people, how you’re to be treated by people, how to cultivate virtue in your life—every aspect of living is covered in the pages of the Bible. With all of its power and wisdom, the Bible can take a person with no understanding and make him skilled in the matter of daily living.

You may ask, “How does that happen?” It happens not just by reading the Book but also by committing your life to Jesus Christ, the Subject and the Author of the Book. He comes to live in you and applies the truth of the Word to your life.

THE BIBLE IS RIGHT

The Word of God—called “*the precepts of the Lord*”—*is right*. In Hebrew, that means it sets out a right path or lays out a right track. And the result is joy to the heart. Do you rejoice in your heart to know that you are right about something? When you get into a controversy with somebody and he/she argues with you but you have the solid assurance that you are right—what a feeling! Well, that is the way it is with the Word of God. The glorious thing about His Book is that when the story is all told, when everything is said and done it will all end up just as it is written here. This Book is right, it is the way things really are.

I know you want a happy life. I know you want peace, joy, meaning, and purpose. I know you want the fullness of life that everybody seeks. The Bible says, “[*Happy*] *are those who hear the word of God and keep it*” (Luke 11:28). Why? Because God blesses their faithfulness and obedience. You can have a happy life without sin, without sex outside of marriage, without drugs, and without alcohol. God is not a cosmic killjoy. I know some people think He is. They think God runs around saying, “*There’s one having fun; get him!*” They believe God wants to rain on everybody’s parade. But that isn’t so. God made you. He knows how you operate best. And He knows what makes you happy. The happiness He gives doesn’t stop when the party’s over. It lasts because it comes from deep within. Spend some time reading and understanding the beatitudes in Matthew chapter 5.

THE BIBLE IS PURE

The Psalmist says the Word of God is “*pure [lucid], enlightening the eyes.*” The simplest Christian understands things that many scholarly people don’t know. Because I know the Bible, things are clear to me that aren’t clear to others.

The autobiography of English philosopher Bertrand Russell, written near the end of his life, implies that philosophy was something of a washout to him. That’s shocking. He spent his life musing on reality but was not able to get anywhere. I don’t believe the average individual is his equal intellectually, and yet, one can know the Word of God. Scripture enlightens the eyes, particularly concerning the dark things of life. Consider what the Bible has to say about death, disease, tragic things and the devastation of the world? Don’t you get sick of picking up the paper and reading about lying, cheating, murder, and war? Scripture deals with the tough issues of life and points us to the ONE who is in charge of the universe.

Look at the Christian who is facing death and see the joy characterizing his/her heart. I have stood by the bedside of many Christians facing death and I have yet to see one frozen with fear. As a good friend and brother lay dying, my wife was at his bedside and his last words to her were, “*I will be waiting for you on the shores of the eternal city of God.*”

Do you have that kind of hope? Can you look death in the eye and say, “*This is not the end, it is but the beginning for me?*” What can you say to someone who loses a child? What can you say to someone who loses a spouse to cancer or heart disease? Benjamin Franklin expressed this hope when he wrote his own epitaph:

THE BODY OF
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, PRINTER,
(LIKE THE COVER OF AN OLD BOOK,
ITS CONTENTS WORN OUT
AND STRIPT OF ITS LETTERING AND GILDING)
LIES HERE, FOOD FOR WORMS!
YET THE WORK ITSELF SHALL NOT BE LOST,
FOR IT WILL, AS HE BELIEVED, APPEAR ONCE MORE
IN A NEW
AND MORE BEAUTIFUL EDITION,
CORRECTED AND AMENDED
BY ITS AUTHOR!

THE BIBLE IS CLEAN

Psalm 19:9 says that the Word of God in “*clean, enduring forever.*” It is without darkness; it is clean, without dross and defilement. It is itself purified from all alloys, and is purifying to those that receive and embrace it. It is the means the Spirit uses in enlightening the eyes; it brings us to a sight and sense of our sin and misery, and directs us in the way of duty.

The only things that last forever are things untouched by the devastation of sin. The word of God is clean. It describes and uncovers sin, but it is untouched by evil. And even though it is an ancient document, every person in every situation in every society that’s ever existed can find in it things that endure forever. Here is a book that never needs another edition. It never needs to be edited, never has to be updated, never out of date or obsolete. It speaks to us

pointedly and directly as it ever has to any one in any century since it was written. It is so pure that it lasts forever.

THE BIBLE IS TRUE

Finally, the Psalmist says that the Word of God is “*true*.” All the precepts of God are framed in infinite wisdom and are therefore true. They are grounded upon the most sacred and unquestionable truths; they are righteous altogether. They accord with the truth and are a correct representation of the reality of things. They are not arbitrary, but are in accordance with what is right. There is not a single one of them that is not just and proper. All that God determines, whether in giving or in executing His laws—all in His requirements, and all in the administration of His government—are always and wholly righteous.

Scripture describes some people as “*always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth*” (2 Timothy 3:7). I am not talking about mathematical truth; I am talking about the truth of life, death, God, man, sin, right, wrong, heaven, hell, hope, joy, and peace. People can’t find it on their own. Yet, the Bible has the answers and they are true and righteous altogether.

WHAT ABOUT MAN NEEDS TO BE CHANGED?

What is there about sinful man that needs to be changed? In order for man, lost in darkness and sin to be saved, his thinking must be changed. His ignorance and unbelief must be changed into understanding and faith. Can the Bible bring about this change? We have just noticed the power of God’s word above. Also in Psalms 119:130 the psalmist said, “*The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple*.” It makes no difference how much man may know about secular matters, unless he has a knowledge and understanding of God’s will, “*the whole world lieth in wickedness*” (I John 5:19). The Bible can change that.

Only the Bible can change unbelief into faith. Romans 10:17 says, “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*.” Jesus also prayed, “*Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word*.” (John 17:20). Believe through what? Through the word that would be preached by the apostles of Christ. Now look at an example of this in Acts 17:11-12:

“Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so. 12 Many of them therefore believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men.” NAS

The Word of God changed their unbelief into faith, and the Word of God is the only thing that has the power to do that.

But **faith alone** is not enough. “*Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only*” (James 2:24). “*Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble*” (v. 19). And verse 17 says, “*Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone*.” It is not enough that those formerly in ignorance and unbelief are now informed, and that they believe the truth of the gospel of Christ. There are many people who know what is right, but who have no desire to do right. I have had people tell me that they did not want to do right. That must be changed. This change is called repentance.

Does the Word of God have the power to bring about repentance? The answer to that question is in II Corinthians 7:8-10:

“ For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it-- for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while-- I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death.” NAS

Therefore, Paul’s writing the Word of God to them brought about that change which we call repentance. Romans 2:4 says:

“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?”

The only way one may know about the goodness of God is through his acquaintance with the Bible. The Bible tells about God loving us, and providing the Scheme of Redemption, even at the cost of His Son. It seems to me that a contemplation of God’s goodness would be enough to cause the sinner to repent and serve the Lord the rest of his days on earth.

But, of course, there are warnings, admonitions, reproofs, and promises contained in the Bible as well. From the Bible we learn about the eternal punishment of the wicked, and about the eternal reward of the righteous. We learn about the resurrection of the dead, and about the judgment. Acts 17:30-31 says:

“In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

This says the impending judgment day should cause men to repent. But if it were not for the Bible, then we would not know about the judgment. If what is contained in the Bible will not bring about repentance, then repentance will not come about. Concerning the rich man’s five brethren, Abraham said, ***“If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead”*** (Luke 16:31). And so it is in our time; if the Bible will not produce repentance, then there will be no repentance, regardless of what else may take place.

But there is more to man that needs changing than what he thinks, believes, and desires. Man, in his lost and sinful condition, loves the things he should hate and hates the things he should love.

I Jn 2:15-17 “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does-- comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.” (NIV)

II Th 2:9-11 “The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.

They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie” (NIV)

What a man loves is important. If he loves the wrong things, that needs to be changed. Can the Bible bring about the necessary changes? Look at I John 4:19: **“We love Him, because He first loved us.”** But, were it not for the Bible we would not know God loves us. How do you know God loves you? The Bible clearly teaches us about God’s love for us.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (NAS)

The Bible also teaches us that we must love God supremely.

Matt 22:37 “And He said to him,”” You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (NAS)

Not only must we love God, we are taught to love the Lord Jesus Christ. In I Corinthians 16:22 Paul wrote, **“If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.”** (accursed and devoted to destruction when the Lord comes). One cannot follow the Bible without having his affections properly placed in the Father and in His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible makes this change possible.

But it is possible for a man to learn the truth, believe the gospel, love God and His Word, make up his mind to do right, and still be in a lost condition. After the Bible has wrought a change in his intellect, his will, and his affections, man is still in a lost condition. Paul wrote in Romans 3:23, **“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”** Can the Bible change man from his lost state to a saved state? Listen to the Bible:

Mark 16:16 “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned”. (NIV)

Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (KJV)

ACTS 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (KJV)

Gal 3:26-27 “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” (NIV)

1 Pet 3:21 “And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” NAS

Just doing what the Bible teaches will bring about the change that is so needed by the sinner. Nothing more is needed to bring the sinner into a saving relationship with God. The Bible has the power to take a person who is groping in confusion and unbelief, and change him, giving him understanding and faith. It can take one whose desire is to fulfill every lust of the flesh and change him, making him want to do right. It can take one whose heart is set on the things of the world, things that are wicked and evil, and change him, making him love the things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, and things that are virtuous and praiseworthy, Philippians 4:8. And it can take the person who is lost because of the guilt of his sins and change

him, and lead him to be baptized into Jesus Christ, so he will be cleansed by the blood of Christ and every sin forgiven, so he may stand as spotless and innocent as a little child.

The Word of God changed three thousand people on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2. In Corinth the Word of God changed fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, thieves, covetous people, drunkards, revilers, and extortioners into saints (I Corinthians 6:9-11). The Bible has changed thousands upon thousands, throughout the history of the world and it has never changed one for the worse.

While the gospel is God's power unto salvation (Romans 1;16) **it can be resisted by anyone who chooses to resist it.** God has made man a free moral agent and man has the power to choose whether or not he will allow himself to be changed by the Bible.

The Bible will change the lives of those men and women who will believe it and obey it. It will save them, and take them to heaven. It will judge and condemn those who reject it. Jesus said in John 12:48-50:

"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. "For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak. 50 "And I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me." NAS

Will you allow the Word of God (the Bible) to change and save you?

Questions

1. Why is the Bible an amazing book?

2. What do various religious groups feel about the Bible having power to change lives?

3. How has God communicated His message to man?

4. What did the Psalmist say regarding the Law of the Lord in Psa 19:7-11?

5. What about man needs to be changed?

6. What did Jesus say His word would do in Jno 12:48-50?
