

## Lesson 2

### THE BIBLE

#### HOW IMPORTANT IS THE BIBLE?

Just to the west of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, there lies a vast and imposing fortress of stone called the Grand Teton Mountains. Long and narrow, rising to nearly 14,000 feet, they stretch for fifty miles north and south like the saw-toothed backbone of a half-submerged prehistoric monster. One of the most photographed places in the United States, these mountains rise abruptly from a flat floor and cast their cold and impersonal, yet strikingly beautiful, presence in every direction for scores of miles.

The Teton Range is virtually impassable. If the summer is warm, there is one pass that will open for a matter of weeks to let you travel east and west over the backbone. Otherwise, you may have to drive as many as fifty or more miles out of your way to go west from Jackson Hole, just to get around one of the largest outcroppings of exposed stone in the world. When you look at the horizon anywhere near the area, the Tetons dominate the landscape.

In the same way, when we scan the horizon of human civilization for the last two thousand years, we see the Bible, confronting the traveler like a massive mountain range that must be negotiated and cannot be merely wished away. The Bible is an enormous historical presence, the dominant piece of literature and a dominant influence in history since the time of Christ. No other piece of literature has come within a fraction of its impact. If the Bible is a mighty oak, then every other piece of literature is a sapling, a seedling or an acorn.

The curious, the earnest, the zealous traveler on life's highway wants to know about and seriously consider the claims of such a book. Why is the Bible so important?

#### WHY I NEED TO KNOW THIS

##### **If I do not understand how important the Bible is....**

1. I may dismiss its importance in my life because I underestimate its importance throughout history.
2. I may miss the fact that any writing which has had the impact the Bible has had for the last thirty-five hundred years cannot be dismissed as "just another book." Its extraordinary influence on history requires explanation, and a curious person intent on knowing truth would want to understand what accounts for such influence.
3. I will miss the opportunity I have to learn and apply its wisdom in life. We are living in a time when the perceived value of the Bible for society, culture, and individuals is diminishing. I must understand the importance of the Bible so that I will know why I should champion the message of the Bible for society, culture, and the individual.

#### I.

##### **THE INFLUENCE THE BIBLE HAS HAD ON SOCIETY**

(The Bible has played a major role in determining the social values of the Western world)

The Bible has made a monumental impact on our society, and we can be glad it has. Once a South Sea Islander proudly displayed his Bible to an American soldier during World War II. “We’ve outgrown that sort of thing,” the soldier said. The Islander smiled back and said, “It is a good thing that we haven’t. If it weren’t for this book, we would have eaten you by now.”

The Bible is certainly the dominant piece of literature worldwide, with multiple billions of copies published to this point, and millions more published every year. While its impact may be diminishing in some circles, it is growing in others, and its historic impact cannot be denied. As one example, the United States was founded largely on Judeo-Christian principles drawn from the Bible, and when one considers the unprecedented historic impact that this nation has had on the world in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries promoting peace and political freedom, it is clear that the influence of the Bible extends far beyond its borders.

The Bible has influenced many societies to adopt basic, important community virtues and to oppose several social vices.

## **THE FAMILY**

In some parts of the world, a husband may have more than one wife. In some parts of the world, a man’s wife is his property, to treat as he sees fit. In some parts of the world, if a couple produces a daughter when they wanted a son, they simply throw the daughter away. Not in America, however. Our laws governing the family have come from the Bible.

The Bible has defined relationships in the family, but modern society has largely ignored this teaching and has, as a consequence, seen the family suffer. Yet, numerous voices today are calling us back to the ideal, insisting that a society flourishes only to the extent that its families flourish.

The Bible’s ideal of one man and one woman married to each other for life provided the strongest underpinning for any society. The Bible proclaims the dignity of man, woman, and child. Men and women are equals in the sight of God, and the value of women is upheld in the Bible higher than in any other religion. The Bible is often misused, as well as falsely accused of being demeaning to women. But this is entirely false.

Jesus upheld the dignity and equality of women in His teaching and all His dealings with women. In Ephesians 5:25, the apostle Paul describes the love husbands are to give their wives by pointing to Christ, whose love for the church moved Him to give Himself up for her. Total and complete commitment to the welfare of the wife is the standard to which the Bible holds all husbands. The apostle Peter writes in I Peter 3:7, “husbands, dwell with your wives with understanding, giving honor to them.” Whenever men have exploited women, they have violated the teaching of the Bible.

It is the same with children. Jesus held children in the highest esteem. Once some children were brought to Jesus so that He might lay His hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, “Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:13-14). The apostle Paul wrote “Fathers do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

Protection of both the physical and psychological dimensions of women and children is a fundamental responsibility of all Christian men, and that is the origin of laws and customs governing life in America, in spite of all the violations we see.

## **LABOR**

Throughout history, the pendulum of conflict has swung back and forth between owners and workers. Whether it was masters and slaves, merchants and buyers, landowners and serfs, or

employers and employees, there is a long history of persecution and victimization. The teaching of the Bible, in principle, ends the pendulum swing. First, it teaches us generally to “do unto others as we would have others do unto us.” Second, it teaches us specifically concerning the responsibilities of employees and employers:

Eph 6:5-9 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. And, masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him. (NAS) (Cf. Col. 3:22-24)

If employees and employers followed these principles, the major pendulum swings between labor and management, to see who can take greatest advantage of whom, would disappear from the workplace.

## **RACE RELATIONS**

In some countries, discrimination is accepted and deeply entrenched. Indeed, discrimination among races has been a particularly acute problem in America, though certainly not confined to America. Problems between African-Americans and Caucasians have received the most attention, but conflict among Hispanics, Asians, Europeans, and Eastern Europeans has also been legendary in America. And, sad to say, it shows signs of getting worse in some places, instead of better. However, the laws of our country forbid racial discrimination because as a nation we believe that all people are created equal in the eyes of God. This value, while many people do not realize it, is part of our heritage from the Bible. Scriptures lays discrimination to rest. Again, in general terms, Jesus’ teaching of the Golden Rule applies: If we would not like to be discriminated against, then we should not discriminate. Specifically, in James 2:1-9:

My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with {an attitude of} personal favoritism. For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world {to be} rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called? If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin {and} are convicted by the law as transgressors. (NAS)

These principles were violated in our nation in a ghastly display of selective understanding when we tolerated slavery. But, terrible as that was, at least it is no longer legal. And the breakdown of support for slavery was encouraged to a great extent by the Bible. Today no one can claim support from the Bible to discriminate against another person. The Bible clearly establishes the equality of all people before God, and it is a sin to treat anyone otherwise.

## **CRIME**

The Bible has influenced what is considered to be lawful and unlawful in America significantly. Our law says we are not to steal, kill, cheat, or lie, just as the Ten Commandments also teach. According to the Bible, we are not even to covet, hate, or lust! People who don’t know the Bible well have stereotyped ideas of what it teaches, thinking that it teaches

intolerance, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness. The fact is, if everyone started following the Bible today, most of our major social problems would be solved, or well on their way, by tomorrow!

## **HUMANITARIANISM**

Poverty has always existed and always will exist. Even Jesus said, “the poor you have with you always” (Matthew 26:11). Yet the Bible has encouraged our national sense of compassion and directed us to help those who cannot help themselves. Christianity has done more for the poor, the needy, and the disadvantaged—and still does—than any other form of organized help in the world.

In the teaching of the Scriptures, from the earliest days of the church, through the Middle Ages, and into the modern age, Christianity has led the world in the establishing of hospitals, orphanages, and educational institutions. It has led the way in fighting slavery, child labor, and discrimination of any kind.

While excesses, miscalculations, and outright abuses have occurred throughout history in the name of Christ, those incidents are an embarrassment to Christ and a misapplication of biblical truth. In addition, the harm that has been done in the name of Christ comes nowhere near the good that has been done.

## **GOVERNMENT**

There is no perfect government on earth, but the ideals of government in America as expressed in our Constitution and Bill of Rights surpass those of any government established before. By contrast, anti-Christian governments, from the Empire of Rome to Mussolini to Hitler to Stalin to Mao to a thousand obscure tyrants, have been murderous, barbarous expressions of the darkest corners of evil hearts. The Bible’s influence on the establishment of benevolent governments has literally directed international fates. For example, if the United States had wanted to rule the world, it could have taken control at the close of World War II. After dropping the atomic bombs on Japan, the United States could have said to all other nations, “Unless you want one of these bombs on the doorstep of your capitol, lay down your arms.” But it didn’t. Instead, it gave every country its freedom, and even spent billions rebuilding the very nations that waged war against us.

The Bible has had a profound effect on government throughout the world, especially in democracies. The dignity of the individual, the establishment of benevolent governments, and the promotion of just and fair laws is one of the great legacies of the Bible.

## **EDUCATION**

Christianity has been the most powerful force for education in the history of the world. Christianity is a religion of the written word. The Bible is the record of the revelation which God wanted preserved for the good of humanity, and central to the ideal of Christianity is the spreading of education so that people can read and understand the Bible. Missionaries have reduced many of the languages of the world to writing so that the Bible could be translated into their language. Wycliffe Bible Translators, the world’s largest Bible translation organization, has translated the Bible for millions upon millions of people since its inception. The primary purpose of this mission is to spread the knowledge of Scripture, but it has the secondary result of promoting worldwide literacy.

The first printing press, the Gutenberg Press, was invented to print the Bible. It was the passion of the Reformers to put a Bible in the hands of as many people as possible. Many of Europe’s finest schools were established to advance Christianity and knowledge of Scripture.

In the United States, the same is even more evident. Nearly every early college was started for the expressed purpose of advancing the knowledge of Scripture and salvation. At the entrance to Harvard is a stone on which this inscription is found:

“After God had carried us safe to New England, and we had built our houses, provided necessities for our livelihood, reared convenient places for God’s worship, and settled the civil government; one of the next things we longed for, and looked after was to advance learning, and perpetuate it to posterity; dreading to leave an illiterate ministry to the churches, when our present ministers shall lie in the dust.”

Yale and Princeton were started for same basic purpose. John Witherspoon, the president of Princeton, once said, “Cursed be all learning that is contrary to the cross of Christ.” Dartmouth was founded to train missionaries to reach the American Indians. The college of William and Mary was established that “the Christian faith might be propagated.” In fact, every college or university in the United States was founded for religious purposes until the University of Pennsylvania was established.

While colleges and universities have defected from their original purpose, nevertheless the Bible played a major role in the educating of Europe and the United States. If it were not for the Bible, the world would have far more illiterate people.

## II.

### THE INFLUENCE THE BIBLE HAS HAD ON OUR CULTURE

(The Bible has been a dominant influence in the arts of the Western world)

Charles Colson, in his book, *Loving God*, told the story of Telemachus, a fourth-century believer. He was a peace-loving, beauty-loving man who lived in a remote village, tending his garden and spending much of his time in prayer. One day he thought he heard the voice of God telling him to go to Rome, so he obeyed, setting out on foot. Weeks later, he arrived wearily in the city at the time of a great festival. The little monk followed the crowd surging down the streets into the Coliseum. He saw the gladiators stand before the emperor and say, “We who are about to die salute you.” Then he realized these men were going to fight to the death for the entertainment of the crowd. He cried out, “In the name of Christ, stop!”

As the games began, he pushed his way through the crowd, climbed over the wall, and dropped to the floor of the arena. When the crowd saw this tiny figure rushing to the gladiators and saying “In the name of Christ, stop!” they thought it was part of the show and began laughing.

When they realized it wasn’t, the laughter turned to anger. As he was pleading with the gladiators to stop, one of them plunged a sword into his body. He fell to the sand. As he was dying, his last words were, “In the name of Christ, stop!”

Then a strange thing happened. The gladiators stood looking at the tiny figure lying there. A hush fell over the Coliseum. Way up in the upper rows, a man stood and made his way to the exit. Others began to follow. In silence, everyone left the Coliseum.

The year was A.D. 391, and that was the last battle to the death between gladiators in the Roman Coliseum. Never again in the great stadium did men kill each other for the entertainment of the crowd.

The Christian in tune with Scripture will love the beautiful and hate the hideous. God is a God of beauty, and hideousness belongs to the devil. Christians ought, then, to be lovers of

beauty, and throughout history, believers have led the world in the production of beauty through the arts.

## ARTS

The Bible has given art its greatest themes. The creation, fall, and redemption of mankind; the great miracles of the Old Testament; the coming to earth of God as Jesus of Nazareth, born in a manger, heralded by angels, living a life of wisdom, power, compassion and sacrifice, and finally, being killed because of His goodness, and His return some time in the future; all present artists with the greatest possible themes.

Christian art began to flourish under the protection of Roman Emperor Constantine in Byzantium (later called Constantinople and then modern Istanbul) after the first three hundred years following Christ's death. Byzantine art was very flat and representative. Then, during the Renaissance, the golden age of art was ushered in, and the biblical themes were painted as never before and never again. Michelangelo painted the incomparable Sistine Chapel and carved from stone Jesus dead in the arms of his grieving mother, Mary.

Raphael painted hundreds of Christian scenes, including some three hundred of the mother of Jesus. Leonardo da Vinci gave us the Last Supper, and Rembrandt filled our eyes with the interplay of dark and light, portraying perhaps the most touching scene of Jesus being taken down from the cross after His death.

In the twentieth century, the secularism that crept in and manifested itself from the acceptance of Darwinism to the near banishment of religious expression from all public arenas has manifested itself in a profound degeneration in art. Abandoning the images and themes of the Bible, much modern art consciously rejects Christian categories and reflects the breakdown of laws, meaning, and morals that typifies our modern society. You can watch America defect from the faith and begin to self-destruct just by leafing through a book on the history of art in America.

## MUSIC

The same thing is true of all other art forms. Much great music of the past was distinctly "Christian." The haunting Gregorian chant is the focal point of earliest preserved music. The Reformation brought newly evolving music into religion, with Luther's "*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*" being the best-known example. The next period, the Baroque period, saw music ascend to heights never before reached and, some would say, never again. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) and George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) were devout believers whose music was composed for the glory of God. Handel's *Messiah* has ministered to millions.

Bach is recognized by many as the greatest composer that ever lived. Much of his music was overtly "Christian," with titles such as "*St. Matthew's Passion*," "*St. John's Passion*," "*Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring*," and so on. And he often put initials on his music manuscripts such as S.D.G., which were initials for the Latin *Soli Deo Gloria*, meaning "*glory to God alone*." Other times he wrote J.J. standing for *Jesu Juban*, meaning "*Help me Jesus*." He dedicated some of his works I.N.J. standing for *In Nomine Jesu*, meaning "In Jesus' Name."

Bach's influence is so pervasive that Beethoven, Haydn, Mendelssohn, Mozart, and many others reveal their debt to him in their own musical contributions. It is generally agreed that Bach is to music what Shakespeare is to literature—each the highest practitioner of his art form.

As in art and literature, we see a steady decline in music from that time on, reaching the low point in our modern era. I agree with Francis Schaeffer, who showed that decline in music, art, and literature parallels the decline in overall devotion to God.

## LITERATURE

The Bible's influence on the literature of the Western world since the Middle Ages is simply immeasurable. In fact, the Bible's influence on literature is so great that, in the words of the literary scholar Northrop Frye, "a student of English literature who does not know the Bible does not understand a great deal of what is going on in what he reads." Today courses in the Bible are offered in many university English departments in order to equip students adequately for their study of literature, since many students now arrive at college with little knowledge of the Bible.

Consider a handful of noteworthy examples: *Augustine's Confessions*, the first modern autobiography, tells of the role of the Bible in his own conversion to Christ. Both Dante's *The Divine Comedy* and Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* exhibit enormous influence from the Bible, as do the works of Shakespeare, John Milton, Edmund Spenser, and many other poets, dramatists, and novelists.

Examples from the last two centuries include the works of Charles Dickens, Nathaniel Hawthorne, James Joyce, Robert Louis Stevenson, Mark Twain, William Faulkner, C. S. Lewis and many others. As scholar Leland Ryken points out, beyond providing major substance to many poems, dramas, or works of prose fiction, the Bible continues to provide titles for works, such as *Go Down Moses* (Faulkner), *East of Eden* (John Steinbeck), *The Sun also Rises* (Ernest Hemingway), and *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (James Baldwin).

People who want to understand great works of Western literature must not only hold in one hand the literature they are reading, but also keep in the other the Bible of literature, which is nothing other than the Bible of Jewish and Christian faith.

### III.

#### THE INFLUENCE THE BIBLE HAS HAD ON OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

(The Bible has been a dominant influence in the spiritual, moral, and ethical formation of the Western world)

Truth is like light. Ignorance and falsehood are like darkness. With light, living life successfully is difficult. Without light, it is impossible! The fate of civilizations hangs on whether or not they will see the light beaming from the Bible and walk in its illuminated pathway.

#### OBJECTIVE TRUTH

The Bible is important because it gives us objective truth. We are living in a day when there are those who say there is no such truth. In fact, Allan Bloom wrote in his profound book, *The Closing of the American Mind*, that the most common value held by nearly everyone today is that all truth is relative. In fact, if there is one thing we can be certain of, they say, it is that there is nothing they can be certain of.

No question is more important than that of religious authority. Everything which men do they do either by the authority of God or by the authority of men. The question which Jesus poses in Matthew 21:23-27 makes this clear. The passage explains that Jesus is teaching in the temple at Jerusalem, and the Jewish chief priests and elder ask him, "(23) *By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?*" Now notice Jesus' reply recorded in verse 25. Notice carefully that He specifies two sources of authority, God and man: "(25) *The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men?*" No question is, or can be, of greater

importance than the question of religious authority. Either there is some objective standard to which all men have obligation, or there is no objective standard to which he can refer in order to obtain the correct answer to religious questions. Otherwise man is thrown back upon sheer subjectivism. ***This would mean that any answer given by anyone to any religious question is a true and acceptable answer!*** This is self-contradictory and therefore false. The person without the Bible as an objective standard has **no answers** for the great questions of life: **Who am I?**; **Where did I come from?**; **Why am I here?**; and **Where am I going when I die?** I challenge you to answer these questions without the Bible. Furthermore, man has no basis for declaring something right or wrong, good or bad, beautiful or ugly, just or unjust. However, the instant the light from God's truth (the Bible) is turned on, the questions are answered, directions are given, and man has the light by which to live his life.

## MORAL STANDARDS

With many people today their attitude is "the ends justify the means." Often you hear, "Get what you can while the getting's good." "Might makes right!" "The winners write the history books." "It's a dog-eat-dog world, so I'll do whatever I have to and let others argue about whether it's right or wrong."

That is why we need the Bible. The Bible gives us moral standards that are necessary if we are to get along with each other. If it were not for God and the Bible, it is hard to tell how far civilization might degenerate. If everyone looks out only for himself, the law of the jungle becomes the law of the land...the survival of the fittest. Only as people willingly look out for one another can civilization advance. When Jesus said, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you" (Luke 6:31), He voiced one of the most profound single sentences in the history of humanity. With the acceptance of that one principle, many of humanity's greatest problems would disappear.

Hitler killed six million Jews. Stalin killed over fifty million of his countrymen. Mao was responsible for perhaps as many as seventy million Chinese deaths. All three of these men were committed and reasoned atheists. Without God, the "rights and wrongs" of what we call civilized countries disappear. If there is no God, then there is nothing wrong with what these men did. Francis Schaeffer, an evangelical theologian, was right when he used to teach that unless you can appeal to God, there is no such thing as right and wrong. You say something is right, I say it is wrong. We cancel each other out. Only if there is a God, and if God has revealed right and wrong to us can we say something is right or wrong, good or bad, just or unjust.

## LIFE AND DEATH

As we look at life, we see people dying, but we don't know where they go. Left to our own perceptions or knowledge, we have no confidence in knowing what happens when we die. However, the Bible speaks convincingly of life after death and tells us what we must do to prepare for eternal life. The Bible teaches very clearly that there is a heaven and a hell. Heaven is described as a place or state of eternal joy, and hell is a place of torment and eternal punishment.

If the Bible is wrong, then there is nothing to worry about. But if the Bible is right, there is plenty to worry about. The Bible teaches that the only thing that separates us from God is sin, (Isaiah 59:1-2). All have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), and the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). God in His love and mercy sent His only Son to die for man and provide salvation for him. Jesus said in John 8:24, "I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am {He} you shall die in your sins."

Jesus also said in Luke 13:3, "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. In sending His apostles into all the world He told them to preach, "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned." Mark 16:16.

Now putting all that together we see that a person is to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, repent of their sins, and be baptized for the remission of sins in order to be saved and become a citizen of the kingdom of heaven. This puts us into a relationship with God, our Father, so we may serve Him and live for Him.

## **CHANGED LIVES**

When people **commit their lives to following the Bible** their lives change. This was true of the disciples in the first century and countless numbers of people down through the ages. I think most people are afraid of failing to serve the Lord acceptably and returning to the world, thereby embarrassing themselves and the Lord. However, Christians find a new power, a new presence, in their lives that the Bible calls the Holy Spirit. He is there convicting one of sin, calling one to righteousness, convincing one of truth, of the validity of righteousness, and the self-destructiveness of sin, and causing one to want to please God and be like Him.

Changed lives are the most powerful testimony to the importance of the Bible.

## **CONCLUSION**

Why is the Bible so important? The Bible is a massive historical presence. Its influence on nearly every area of life is difficult to exaggerate. Suffice it to say, the world would be a darker, uglier, crueller place than we can imagine if it were not for the light, beauty, and love revealed in the Bible.

## **THE BIBLE LIVES**

Generation follows generation – yet it lives.  
Nations rise and fall – yet it lives.  
Kings, dictators, presidents come and go – yet it lives.  
Hated, despised, cursed – yet it lives.

Doubted, suspected, criticized – yet it lives.  
Condemned by atheists – yet it lives.  
Scoffed at by scorners – yet it lives.  
Exaggerated by fanatics – yet it lives.  
Misconstrued and misstated – yet it lives.  
Ranted and raved about – yet it lives.  
Its inspiration denied – yet it lives.

Yet it lives – as a lamp to our feet.  
Yet it lives – as a light to our path.  
Yet it lives – as a gate to heaven.  
Yet it lives – as a standard for childhood.  
Yet it lives – as a guide for youth.  
Yet it lives – as an inspiration for the matured.  
Yet it lives – as a comfort for the aged.  
Yet it lives – as food for the hungry.  
Yet it lives – as water for the thirsty.

Yet it lives – as rest for the weary.  
Yet it lives – as light for the heathen.  
Yet it lives – as salvation for the sinner.  
Yet it lives – as grace for the Christian.

To know it is to love it.  
To love it is to accept it.  
To accept it means life eternal.

(Selected)

### Questions

1. Why do you need to understand the importance of the Bible?

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2. What influence has the Bible had on our society?

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3. What influence has the Bible had on our culture?

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4. Why is the Bible important to us spiritually?

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5. Contrast the moral standard of the world with the Bible's moral standard.

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6. Why is the Bible important to us regarding life after death?

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7. Why are changed lives the most powerful testimony to the importance of the Bible?

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8. If you are not reading the Bible a few minutes every day, does the Bible have the place in your life it should have? (This question is not to be discussed in class)

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9. Would you explain what is more important than reading your Bible? (This question is not to be discussed in class)

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