

GIVE A LOVE FOR THE BIBLE
(Psalm 119:140)

I. We should love the Bible because of its source.

- A. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
 - 1. The Bible that we hold in our hands came from God.
 - 2. He breathed these words out to us and for us.
- B. Notice this statement from Peter...(2 Peter 1:20-21).
 - 1. Peter states that the prophets did not come up with what they wrote out of their own minds.
 - 2. The Holy Spirit bore them along in the way He wanted them to go and write what He told them to write.
- C. Paul was attacked in the area of Galatia by false teachers that charged him with receiving his doctrine from others.
 - 1. Paul strongly declared that wasn't the case (Galatians 1:11-12).
 - 2. Paul did not get his doctrine from men but by means of revelation from God.
- D. Sadly, there is a great lack of belief in the inspiration of the Bible in the religious world.
 - 1. A study done several years ago in denominational bodies showed that in several groups a majority of the ministers of several of those bodies did not believe in the inspiration of the Bible.
 - 2. Along those lines, I would be afraid to see the numbers if such a poll was done in churches of Christ.
- E. If the Bible is not the inspired word of God we have no need to believe in its promises or obey its commands.
- F. If it is though, we have great promises given to us and they will be ours if we obey the commands of it.
- G. Friends, we have a book that was given to us by God.
 - 1. He has protected it down through the ages by means of His providence.
 - 2. He has made it where one can know Him and His will for mankind.

II. We should love the Bible because of its subject.

- A. Beginning with Genesis 3:15 the Bible concerns itself with how mankind is going to be saved.
- B. As br. Franklin Camp would say, "the scheme of redemption."
- C. Each book of the Old Testament has Jesus in it in some way.
- D. When we get to the New Testament we get to meet Jesus in the first four books.
 - 1. We then get to read about the church He established for man's salvation.
 - a. We learn how to enter it.
 - b. We learn how to grow it.
 - c. We learn how to act in it.
 - 2. We finally get to read about the victory that His people who are members of that church will gain at His return.

- E. Man's salvation through Christ is the subject of the Bible.
 1. My salvation through Christ is the subject of the Bible.
 2. We get to see God's love for each of us through the sending of His Son (John 3:16).
 3. We see how God worked out His plan to bring Jesus into the world to redeem us (Galatians 4:4-5).
- F. What greater subject could there be that should cause us to love the Bible?
 1. It is a love letter from God for us.
 2. We in turn should show our love for God and the Bible by being obedient to the teachings of His letter to us.

III. **We should love the Bible because of its stability.**

- A. Have you noticed that since you first got your Bible its teachings have not changed?
 1. Mark 16:16 reads the same as when you first got it.
 2. Acts 2:38 and Matthew 19:9 read the same.
- B. The books of men change.
 1. There are revisions even of manuals and creeds.
 2. The current Southern Baptist Confession of Faith is entitled "2000 Baptist Faith and Message."
 3. That is a revised version of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message which was a revised version of the 1925 Baptist Faith and Message.
 4. The United Methodist Book of Discipline has seen numerous revisions.
 5. It was originally published in 1784, in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and has been published every four years thereafter following the meeting of the General Conference, which passes legislation that is included in the Book of Discipline.
 6. These are just two examples of the many that could be offered, such as the papal bulls that have been issued in the last few years that contradict papal bulls of numerous years ago.
- C. Thankfully, the Bible has not, does not and will not change.
- D. Jesus attested to this fact (Luke 21:33).
- E. The Psalmist attested to this fact (119:89).
- F. Jude attested to this fact (Jude 3 - there will be no revisions).
- G. Paul attested to this fact (Galatians 1:6-9).
- H. The reason it is stable is because of its source and its subject.
 1. Hebrews 13:8.
 2. God and Christ don't change and neither does their word.
- I. The stability of the Bible gives us stability in life.
 1. Storms come and we don't have to be tossed about.
 2. We can anchor to Jesus and ride it out (Hebrews 6:19).