

SERMON STARTERS

INTRODUCING THE BIBLE

The Bible is the most valuable book that you can own because it is the most holy book that you can own. It is valuable because it is holy, and it is holy because it is the only book God caused to be written. Why is that true? From the book of I Peter I will show you why you should treasure your Bible.

1. WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

A. IT IS TRUTH THAT PURIFIES THE SOUL –

I Peter 1:22 *“you have purified your souls in obeying the truth...”* Cf. John 17:17)

B. IT IS SEED THAT PRODUCES LIFE – v.23 *“being born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God...”* (Explain “seed.”)

C. IT IS MILK THAT PROVIDES NOURISHMENT – 2:2 *“desire the pure milk of the word”*

2. HOW IS THE BIBLE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER BOOKS?

A. Because it is DIVINE. v. 23 *“the Word of God...”*

B. Because it is ALIVE. v. 23 *“which lives”*

C. Because it is ETERNAL. v. 23 *“and abides forever.”*

3. HOW DID WE GET IT?

A. God breathed and Adam received a living soul;

Gen. 2:7 - *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”*

B. God breathed and disciples received the living Spirit;

John 20:22 *“He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”*

C. God breathed and we received a living Book.

II Tim. 3:16 *“All scripture is God-breathed.”*

4. WHAT TO DO WITH THE BIBLE? Acrostic: **“The Bible”:**

A. TRUST IT. *“I trust in Your word.”* Ps. 119:42

B. HONOR IT. *“I esteem all Your precepts concerning all things to be right.”* Ps. 119:128

C. EXPLORE IT. *“I rejoice at Your word as one that finds great treasure.”* Ps. 119:162

- D. **B ELIEVE** IT. *“These are written that you may believe.”* John. 20:21
- E. **I MPLANT** IT. *“Your word have I hid in my heart ...”* Psalm 119:11
- F. **B ROADCAST** IT. *“And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.”* (Acts 13:49)
- G. **L IVE** IT. *“Be doers of the word and not hearers only”* James 1:22
- H. **E NJOY** IT. *“Your commandments are my delight.”* Ps. 119:143

THIS IS THE WORLD'S MOST UNIQUE BOOK

This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the eternal punishment of unbelievers and the eternal bliss of believers.

Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true and its decrees are unchanging.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe and obey it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you, food to support you and comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's charter.

Here paradise is restored, heaven opened and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is its Grand Object, our good is its design and the glory of God its end.

It should change the life, fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, regularly, prayerfully and believingly.

It is given you in life, will be opened in the judgment and will be remembered forever.

It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

- Henry Van Dyke