

“The Living Word of God”
I Peter 1:17-25, page 1186

Introduction:

1. There are many excellent books available to us today.
2. These books provide guidance and inspiration to us.
3. Many of you are reading a series such as the Karen Kingsbury series, and this is a good thing to do.
4. The Bible, however, is a special book that stands head and shoulders above all other books.
 - A. The Bible gives us an accurate picture of the history of civilization, the rise and fall of nations, and an in-depth study of human nature.
 - B. It took thousands of years to write the Bible.
 - C. The Bible is a compilation of over fifty authors.
 - D. The Bible has survived the assaults of kings and nations who intended to destroy this amazing book.
 - E. In addition to these facts, what makes the Bible such an amazing book?

I. The Bible gives us an accurate picture of God.

- A. From the beginning verse of Genesis to the last verse of Revelation, God is clearly described.
 1. *Genesis 1:1: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*
 2. *Revelation 22:13: “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”*
- B. It would take us weeks to analyze the attributes of God.
 1. God desires fellowship. *Genesis 1:26a: “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness....’”*
 2. God is a Spirit. *John 4:24: “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*
 3. God is love. *I John 4:8: “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”*
 4. God is just. *Isaiah 45:21: “...a just God and a Savior; there is none besides Me.”*
 5. God will punish. *Isaiah 13:11a: “I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity.”*
 6. God is forgiving. *Matthew 6:14: “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”*
 7. God is unchanging. *Malachi 3:6a: “For I am the Lord, I do not change.”*
 8. God is powerful. *Matthew 28:18b: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”*
 9. God is eternal. *Romans 1:20: “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.”*

10. God will return. *Revelation 22:20: "He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming quickly.' Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"*
 11. God is holy. *Revelation 4:8b: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"*
- C. The Bible is a living and accurate description of the personality of God.
D. You can know God if you study the Bible!

II. The Bible is the textbook of the Holy Spirit.

- A. The Bible is the unchanging Word of God, and the Holy Spirit gives us the wisdom to apply these unchanging truths into our daily living.
1. From the jungles of South America to the streets of New York, the truth of the Bible is relevant.
 2. From the youngest to the oldest, the Bible teaches us how to live at peace with each other.
 3. From the weakest to the strongest, the Bible reveals how to attain abundant living.
- B. Our only hope of understanding the deep truths of the Bible lies in the insight the Holy Spirit gives to us. *John 15:13-14: "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."*
- C. The Holy Spirit reveals to us how to attain eternal life. *Romans 10:8-9: "But what does it say? 'The word is near you, even in your mouth and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

III. The Bible is the only solid foundation of our faith.

- A. The natural tendency of a sinful heart and mind is to adjust the teachings of the Bible to accommodate our philosophy of life.
1. A loving God would never send anyone to hell.
 2. It doesn't matter what we believe as long as we live a good life.
 3. There are several ways to make heaven our eternal destination.
 4. The Bible speaks in symbolic terms and is not to be taken literally.
- B. Our Christian faith is only as strong as the strength of our belief system.
1. We cannot trust our emotions.
 2. We cannot base our faith on how we feel.
 3. We dare not base our faith on the teachings of men.
 4. We cannot base our faith on public acceptance.
- C. Our faith must be based on the literal teachings of the Bible.

Conclusion:

1. As a church, our mission statement must be directly based on the teachings of God's Word.
2. B.I.C.C. must be clear in our witness and teaching concerning what we believe.
3. Note our statement of faith!