

Studies in Christianity Christian Living #7

S#1.

Why Christians Read the Bible

S#2.

Text : **II Timothy 3: 10-18 ; James 1: 16-25**

A. God loves you so much He gave His Only Begotten Son to save your soul. S#3.

John 3: 16 – For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

B. Jesus was a once for all time sacrifice for the sins of those who would surrender.

Heb. 10: 10 – By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. **11** Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; **12** but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God. S#4.

C. Jesus is the only way anyone can approach God. S#5.

John 14: 6 – Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

D. In just these three verses, we have seen : S#6.

1. God wants to save lost souls.
2. Jesus is the way God saves.
3. Jesus will not die repeatedly.
4. Jesus is the only access to God.
5. Jesus is in Heaven, no longer preaching.

E. While Jesus was on the earth He prepared witness to tell the world about him.

1. Acts 1: 8 – But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." S#7.

2. Acts 8 ... The Apostles went and also gave others the ability to teach by inspiration.

3. But as the Apostles began to be killed off, there was no one who could pass on gifts.

S#8.

F. Thus , the Holy Spirit inspired the addition of a permanent record of the gospel.

1. The story of the gospel was established in the mouth of four inspired witnesses.
2. The establishment of the called out people was documented establishing a pattern.
3. Documents were preserved as the early disciples were taught and problems resolved

I. It is only by reading His book that one can come to know God.**S#9.****A. We can see the evidence of God in nature, but not the person of God.**

1. **Rom.1: 19** – because that which is known about God is evident within them; **S#10.**
for God made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
2. Though one can observe there is a God, one can observe nothing about Him.
3. That is why people began worshiping the created things ... sun , stars , etc.

B. The bible is a book written by God which tells us about God.**S#11.**

1. It reveals who He is ... the “I AM” ... Jehovah, the eternally existent one.
 - a. **Exod. 3: 13** – Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, " I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" **S#12.**
 - b. **Rev. 1: 8** – "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, **S#13.**
"who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."
 - c. **Psa. 90: 2** – Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.
2. It says that He lives in Heaven, **but** He does not tell us where Heaven is .. above.
 - a. **Psa. 115: 3** – But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. **S#14.**
 - b. **Isa. 66: 1** – Thus says the LORD, "Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?"
3. He created all things and owns all thing by right of creation. **S#15.**
Psa. 24: 1 – The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains,
The world, and those who dwell in it.
4. God created all and owns all, **so** he rules over all with complete sovereignty. **S#16.**
 - a. **Psa. 29: 10** – The Lord sat as King at the flood; Yes, the Lord sits as King forever.
 - b. **Psa. 47: 2** – For the Lord Most High is to be feared, A great King over all the earth.
 - c. **Isa. 43: 13** – "Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"
 - d. **Isa. 46: 10** – Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; **S#17.**

II. The words that are recorded in the scriptures lead one to salvation.**S#18.****A. All men sin and in so doing become lost, spiritually dead.**

1. **Rom. 6: 23** – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **S#19.**
2. **Rom. 3: 10** – ... both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; **10** as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; ..."
3: 23 – ... for there is no distinction; **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ...

B. It is the scriptures that exhort sinners to repent and turn to God.

1. **Matt. 3: 1** – Now in those days **John** the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, **2** "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. **S#20.**
2. **Matt. 4: 17** – From that time **Jesus** began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
3. **Acts 2: 38** – Brethren what shall we do, **Peter** said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." **S#21.**

S#22.**C. The message of the gospel is essential to salvation. (*not emotions / experiences*)**

1. Salvation is a gift given to those who have faith in Jesus as the risen Son of God
Eph. 2: 8 – For by grace you have been saved through faith; ...
2. The faith which saves comes via the word of God ... the holy scriptures.
Rom. 10: 17 – So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
3. Everyone who has ever been saved has been saved by a faith response to the word.
I Cor. 15: 1 – Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached **S#23.**
to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, **2** by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. **3** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

D. When one lets the word of God into his heart it can lead him to salvation. **S#24.**

1. **James 1: 21** – Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. **22** But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. (Vs. 18 .. *brought forth by*)
2. **II Tim. 3: 15** – and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings (O.T.) which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (**Ax 8: 31-35**) **S#25.**

III. The bible tells one how to please God.**S#26.****A. The primary reason a Christian reads the scriptures is to become what God desires him to be and learn to live in a way that pleases God****S#27.**

1. This is a divinely inspired goal for every Christian's life.

Eph. 5: 7 – Therefore do not be partakers with them; **8** for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light **10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.** **9** (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

S#28.

2. As we learn about God, we learn how to be like Him.

S#29.

Eph. 5: 1 – Therefore **be imitators of God,** as beloved children; **2** and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

3. Part of being an imitator of God is to sacrifice as God the Son sacrifices.

S#30.

Rom. 12: 1 – Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice,** acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

4. This speaks of a bodily sacrifice, but not a physical death.

S#31.

- a. **Gal. 2: 20** – I have been **crucified with Christ;** and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me;** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

- b. One's life does not end, his ownership of it ends.

S#32.

I Cor. 6: 19 – Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that **you are not your own?** **20** For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

B. When we allow the scriptures to penetrate our hearts it changes us.**S#33.**

1. We tend to become what we think about.

- a. Successful people **VISUALIZE** themselves as being successful.

- b. **Rom. 12: 2** – Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind.

2. If we apply the word (are doers) it will change WHO we are and WHAT we are. Applying the word will change our CHARACTER which will change our CONDUCT.

C. God has provided us with everything we need to know to please Him.**S#34.**

1. **II Pet. 1: 2** – Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; **3** seeing that His divine power has **granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge** of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

2. What we need to know is in the knowledge that the book God provides.
3. God provided the source material, we must glean the knowledge.

D. In the scriptures, God has provided everything the Hebrew writer prayed for us.

Heb. 13:21 – Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead, the great **S#35.**
 Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant,
 even Jesus our Lord, **21** equip you in every good thing to do His will,
 working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, ...

IV. One cannot build his/her relationship with God without reading the bible. S#36.

A. The scriptures are the only source of spiritual wisdom and discernment. S#37.

1. Spiritual wisdom comes when one is filled with spiritual knowledge.

Col. 1: 9 – For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not **S#38.**
 ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge
 of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **10** so that you will
 walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing
 fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

2. Wisdom : The prudent implementation of a body of knowledge and experience

B. One can neither apply nor understand knowledge that he does not possess.

1. **Phil. 1:9** – And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real **S#39.**
knowledge and all discernment, **10** so that you may approve the things that
 are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;

2. Using the knowledge one gains enables him/her to gain more knowledge.

Heb. 5: 14 – But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have
 their senses trained to discern good and evil.

CONCLUSION :

A. What have we learned thus far ? S#40.

1. The scriptures teach us about God.
2. The scriptures lead us to salvation.
3. The scriptures teach us how to please God.
4. The scriptures teach us what we need to know to build our relationship with God.

B. CHALLENGE : Make reading the scriptures a part of our daily routine. S#41.

1. In 20 minutes per day one can read the whole bible every year.
2. There is NO merit in daily reading, but there is great value in it.

S#42. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**II Timothy 3: 10-18**

10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, **11** persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! **12** Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. **13** But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. **14** You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, **15** 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. **16** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

James 1: 16-25

18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

19 his you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; **20** for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. **21** Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. **22** But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; **24** for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. **25** But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.