



# LANDER, WYOMING *church of Christ*

## **Tract #1: THE BIBLE**

A person has deprived himself of the best knowledge there is in the world if they deprived themselves of a knowledge of the Bible. On the foundation of this book, civilizations have been built and sustained. Only through the medium of the Bible can we understand who God is.

The word "Bible" comes from the Greek word *Biblia* which means "book." The Bible is God's book of instruction for all people. No other written words have affected so many people for so long in history. The reason for this is that men know the Bible is God's truth that was revealed to direct our beliefs and behavior.

The Bible is a library of sixty-six Holy Spirit inspired books and letters. Contrary to man-made religions that are usually based on the writings of one man, the Bible was written by over forty inspired men over a period of about 1,500 years. Though written by so many different people over a period of many centuries, there are no contradictions in the Bible. There is one united theme throughout the entire Bible, the eternal salvation of man through the sacrificial offering of Jesus, the Son of God.

Thirty-nine of the Bible books make up the Old Testament. These books were first given to the nation of Israel. The New Testament contains twenty-seven books that were written to Christians.

### **The Bible is God's blessing to you**

The Bible came to us through years of God's work to inspire men as to how we can please Him.

- A. The Bible is God speaking through words (Mt 22:43; At 1:16; 2 Tm 3:16).
- B. The Bible is God speaking through the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:26; 16:13; 1 Co 2:10-13; Hb 3:7; 9:8; 10:15; 2 Pt 1:20,21).
- C. The Bible is God speaking through the Holy Spirit through inspired words of truth (Jr 36:4; 1 Co 2:13).
- D. The Bible is God speaking through the Holy Spirit to inspired men who spoke and wrote inspired words of truth (Ex 24:4; 35:1; 2 Sm 23:2; Is 51:16; Jr 36:4-6; Ez 11:5; 1 Co 14:37).
- E. The Bible is God speaking through the Holy Spirit through men to men (Lk 1:70; At 28:25; Rm 1:2; 16:26).
- F. The Bible is God speaking through the Holy Spirit through inspired men to all men of all history (Ez 2:7; 3:4,10,11,17; 2 Th 2:14; 2 Tm 3:16,17; Hb 1:1,2).

### **You can trust the Bible**

God gave the Bible to people upon the foundation of miraculous proof. He not only inspired men to preach and write His word, but He also sent confirming miracles to prove that His word was more than the mere word of men.

- A. The Bible was confirmed by miracles. The word of God that was first spoken by the early messengers of God was proven to be from God by the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit (See 1 Kg 18:30-40; Mk 16:20; Jn 20:30,31; At 2:33; 4:29,30; 1 Co 2:1-5; 12:7; Gl 3:5; Hb 2:3,4).
- B. The confirmed and spoken word was written. The inspired writers of the Bible recorded their miraculously proven word (Rm 15:4,18,19; 1 Co 2:4; 10:11; 1 Th 1:5).

### **The Bible will change your life**

Give the Bible a chance in your life. If you believe it to be the word of God, then you will treasure its message. Your life will thus be transformed into a life that is pleasing to God.

- A. The Bible can dwell in our hearts (Cl 3:16; 1 Jn 2:14,24; 3:9; 2 Jn 2).
- B. The Bible can be laid up in our hearts so that we not sin against God (Ps 37:31; 119:11).
- C. The Bible can be written on our hearts when we honor its principles (Ps 40:8; Jr 31:32,33; 2 Co 3:3; Hb 8:10; 10:16).
- D. The Bible changes our lives when we sincerely obey its principles (Js 1:22-25; 1 Jn 1:6,7; 2 Jn 4; 3 Jn 3,4).

### **The Bible is sufficient for all**

The Bible is all-sufficient to furnish the Christian with all direction that is necessary to be acceptable to God. The Bible has the power to accomplish the following in our lives:

- A. Power to change lives (1 Pt 2:1,2; 2 Pt 1:3; 1 Th 4:1,2; 3 Jn 3,4).
- B. Power to give eternal life (Jn 8:51; see Jn 5:24; 11:26).

- C. Power to eternally save (At 11:14; 20:32; Hb 4:12; Js 1:21).
- D. Power to give freedom (Jn 8:32; Js 1:25).
- E. Power to minister to others (Ep 4:11-16).
- F. Power to teach (Pv 22:6; Ps 119:103,104; Rm 15:4).
- G. Power to admonish (1 Co 4:14; 10:11; 2 Tm 4:1,2; Ti 1:9).
- H. Power to live a godly life (Cl 1:5-10; 1 Tm 3:14,15; 1 Pt 5:12).
- I. Power to reprove, rebuke and correct (2 Tm 3:16; Ti 1:9).

### **The Bible is God's final revelation**

The Bible claims to be God's only and final revelation of truth to man. With the writing of *Revelation*, the last book of the Bible, God stopped all revelation of truth that He desires men to know in these times of existence.

- A. God revealed His will to the fathers of extended family groups in the Old Testament times before the giving of the Old Testament law on Mount Sinai (Hb 1:1,2).
- B. God revealed His will to Israel on Mount Sinai through the Old Testament books (Dt 4:1,13; 5:1-5; Ex 19:4-6; Ne 8:1; Rm 3:1,2).
- C. God revealed His will to the Old Testament writers who recorded examples for the Christian's learning (Rm 15:4; 1 Co 10:11).
- D. God revealed all truth to the New Testament apostles in the first century as specific instruction for Christians (Jn 14:26; 16:13).
- E. We have all necessary instruction today in the New Testament that was recorded for our teaching and moral guidance (Gl 1:11,12; Ep 3:3-5; 2 Tm 3:16,17, 2 Pt 1:3). Therefore, we must not add to nor subtract from the Bible (Dt. 4:2; Gl 1:6-9; 2 Jn 9-11; Rv 22:18,19).

### **God works through the Bible**

Since God is our creator, He seeks to direct us to Him. He intends that His word function in the following ways in the lives of those who seek a relationship with Him, and thus desire to submit to His direction. Through the Bible God seeks ...

- A. ... to produce faith in our hearts (Jn 20:30,31; Rm 10:17).
- B. ... to sanctify our souls of sin (Jn 17:17; Ep 5:26; 1 Tm 4:4,5).
- C. ... to cleanse our hearts and souls (Jn 15:2,3; Ep 5:26; 1 Pt 1:22).
- D. ... to quicken our souls (Ps 119:50,93; Ep 2:1,5).
- E. ... to enlighten our minds (Ps 19:8).
- F. ... to give us understanding (Ps 119:104,130; Ep 3:4).
- G. ... to lead our lives (Ps 73:24; 119:105).
- H. ... to comfort our hearts (Rm 15:4; 1 Th 3:2; 4:18).
- I. ... to produce in us spiritual growth (At 20:32; Cl 1:10,11).
- J. ... to strengthen our hearts (At 20:32; Rm 16:25; 2 Tm 2:1,2).

God revealed His word to us in order that we find our way to Him. Without His revelation to us, we could not know who He is or how to please Him. The Bible reveals that Jesus is the only way to God.

(1) As the Son of God, Jesus said, "*If you love Me, keep My commandments.*" (2) If you want to find your way to God, and to show your love for Jesus, the Son of God, then you must keep the commandments of Jesus. The only way to know the commandments of Jesus is by reading the Bible. You can know and keep Jesus' commandments by obedience to the gospel by baptism into Christ (3) Through faith and obedience to the gospel, one becomes a member of Jesus' body, the church (4)

Research: (1) John 14:6, (2) John 14:15, (3) Read: John 6:45; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3-6; 1 Peter 3:21, (4) 1 Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 1:18

- Roger E. Dickson