

# The VALUE of the Bible

*What value should we place on the Bible?*

## The Seminar Series: The Bible

- **The VALUE of the Bible...***What value should we place on the Bible?*
- **The RELIABILITY of the Bible - Part 1...***Can we trust the Bible?*
- **The RELIABILITY of the Bible - Part 2...***Can we trust the Bible?*
- **APPROACHING the Bible ...***What attitude should we have as read the Bible?*
- **UNDERSTANDING the Bible ...***How do we understand and interpret the Bible?*
- **EXPERIENCING God in the Bible...***How do we experience God when we read the Bible?*
- **PERSEVERING in the Bible...***How do we experience God through the Bible for a lifetime?*

## INTRODUCTION: *What's our problem?*

**Q:** *Why is it easier to binge watch your favorite show (Sports Center, Fixer Upper, Grey's Anatomy) for 2 hours versus spending 10 minutes reading the Bible?*

## The Value of the Bible

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### *Our Treasured Possession*

**Psalm 119:24** - *Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors.*

**Psalm 119:72** - *The law from Your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.*

**Psalm 119:103** - *How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth*

### **WHY?** *The Bible is the sovereign Creator's communication with us*

- The use of personal pronouns
  - Q:** *What does the consistent use of personal pronouns teach us?*
- The primary way God reveals Himself

*The Bible isn't merely a guidebook but a story through which we meet and know God.*

## The Attributes of the Bible

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### God identifies Himself with His Word

- 2 Samuel 12:9-10
- John 14:23

*"God's Word is an extension of Himself - His identity, purposes, affections, and power."  
- Jonathan Leeman, **Word-Centered Church**, page 30*

→ The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 119:4** - *You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed.*

- 1) All of life is **subject** to what God says in the Bible
- 2) The Bible is the **standard** of life

# The VALUE of the Bible

*What value should we place on the Bible?*

**Q:** *Why do we often have an allergic reaction to the authority of the Bible?*

**Q:** *How does the Bible being authoritative increase the value we place on it?*

*A God who must submit to you and your authority is not God at all but an idol you have crafted to your own liking (Romans 1:21-25). We were created to be tethered to revelation and to interpret life through God's revelation (Genesis 1-2). When we see that God's greatest glory and our greatest good are behind all His commands, then we will not feel His authority is restrictive (1 John 5:2-3).*

→ The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 119:160** - *All Your words are true; all Your righteous laws are eternal.*

**Psalm 119:105** - *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

- 1) God is truthful so ALL of His Words are true
- 2) Because His Words are TRUE, they are also RELEVANT to every desire of our hearts

**Q:** *How does the Bible being true and relevant increase the value we place on it?*

*God is true and relevant to us and so is His Word.  
The true and eternally relevant story of the Bible defines reality and ought to define our lives.  
The story of the Bible ought to be the lens through which we view everything.*

→ The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_

**The Bible is living and has the power to...**

- 1) Create spiritual life - 1 Peter 1:23; James 1:18
- 2) Free us from the bondage of sin - John 8:31-32
- 3) Transform us to be more like Jesus Christ - John 17:17
- 4) Guide us in our daily lives - Psalm 119:105
- 5) Accomplish God's work in the world - Acts 12:24; 13:49; 19:20; Colossians 1:6

"The Bible is an armory of heavenly weapons, a laboratory of infallible medicines, a mine of exhaustless wealth. It is a guidebook for every road, a chart for every sea, a medicine for every malady, and a balm for every wound. Rob us of our Bible and our sky has lost its sun." - **Thomas Guthrie**

*God is the ultimate AUTHORITY. He is TRUE. He is RELEVANT. He is SUFFICIENT for us.  
Therefore, the Bible is authoritative, true, relevant, and sufficient.  
To the degree that we value and treasure God, we will value and treasure the Bible.*

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## Where do I go from here?

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→ **LOOK INWARD** - Think about your own heart...

**Q:** *What functional value do you place on the Bible?*

**DISTRUST ----- DISINTEREST----- DUTY ----- DESIRE----- DELIGHT**

**Q:** *What needs realignment in how you view the Bible?*

"Do you struggle to make the Bible a regular part of your routine? Consider what you are not believing about the word? Do we believe it has something relevant to say? Do you believe there are answers to life's hardest questions in the Bible? Do you think you will find the comfort and presence of Christ in this book? The Bereans went to the Scriptures daily because they were eager to listen to God and they believed the Bible was the place to go to hear his voice.

Why do we check email compulsively? Or Facebook? Or Twitter? Or the old fashioned mailbox? Because we believe there is news for us—there's something there. Someone may have just put up a sweet video of a cat or a status update about someone who made a nice lemonade. Really important stuff like that. We check because we believe we may hear something relevant and necessary. And yet, what could be more relevant or necessary than God's word?

Let this truth be a diagnostic tool you and for me: Our behavior with the Scriptures is an indication of our belief about the Scriptures. The Bereans looked into the Bible every day because they expected to find something there. Do we?" - **Kevin DeYoung**

→ **PAUSE & THINK** - Before you open the Bible pause and remember that this is your Creator & Redeemer's communication to you!

→ **FALL FORWARD** - Commit to immersing yourself in the Bible more and more during this seminar  
**The Psalm 119 experiment** - read & pray through Psalm 119:1-24 this upcoming week

**Psalm 34:8** - *"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!"*