

Opening Illustration: UCSB “Bible as History” class where the teacher claimed the Bible was only literature and history. He desecrated the Bible and challenged those who was offended to leave the class

GOD-BREATHED

2 Peter 1: 20,21 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

This powerful Scripture, speaking about all Scripture, declares that the Bible is written God, not men. Men (no female writers, as far as we know) moved the “pen” but God moved the hearts. The writers were not “robots” but used their personality and vocabulary – but it was God’s message given through the vehicle of human writers. Astounding! It is, therefore, God’s Divine message to mankind, and to me personally – and I must treat it as such.

PROFITABLE

2 Timothy 3: 16,17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

- This verse tells us that there is multiple value in reading and studying God’s Word, the Bible. It begins by reiterating the truth of 2 Peter 1:20.21 and then gives us 4 specific values: teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness.
- It finishes by promising that the one who allows the Bible to be these things to him will be adequately equipped for God’s good ministry. It implies that those who do not do such will not be prepared, nor will do God’s good work. Heed!

PIERCING

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

This verse teaches that the Bible is so “alive” spiritually that it can “get inside” of us so deep as to affect our souls. It will cause us to examine our thoughts and intentions (motives) like nothing else can. If you dare allow the Bible to pierce, it will – to your great benefit. It will be a window to your soul.

Brings GROWTH

1 Peter 2: 2,3 Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

- Though other spiritual disciplines - like prayer, ministry and evangelism – are of great benefit, it is the reading and “digesting” of the Word of God that brings about spiritual GROWTH.
- Just like a baby cries for milk, we must “cry” for the food of the Bible, God’s Word.
- However – hunger pangs drive us to eat. Spiritual hunger pangs are much subtler and may go undetected – therefore God commands us to “long for” or KJV “crave” the Bible. This is our #1 source for spiritual growth!

Brings FAITH

Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of Christ. (John 20:31)

Do you lack faith? The Bible is our #1 source of faith growing.

Brings PURITY

Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee.

Do you want purity – protection from sin? Reading and heeding the Bible is our #1 protection from sinning.

Brings GUIDANCE

Psalms 119:105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.

Do you want/need spiritual guidance? The Bible is our #1 map to a right path.

Worthy of my DILIGENCE

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

All the above reasons should drive us to regular reading, study and serious consideration of the Bible. The time will come when you will be asked by someone for you to help them with the Bible, and you do not want to be ashamed of your ignorance, or worse – misdirection. Therefore, God commands (not suggests) that I be DILEGENT and disciplined in my WORKING at knowing and understanding the Word better – that I might be proud to be used by God when the time comes. I need to become an accurate and dependable BIBLE HANDLER – approved by God. Note: from this verse comes the AWANA name (“approved workers are not ashamed”)