

Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 – First Baptist Church Buda
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study



Why You Need the Bible?
2 Timothy 3:16-17

“¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” -2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

For some 2 Timothy may nothing more than a continuation where 1 Timothy leaves off. But as you can see, it is so much more. The book is the Apostle Paul’s “Swan Song,” his warning shot, his encouragement in the face of great opposition and obstacle. It is so practical and relevant for 21st century Christians and the church... a needed word for what we face in our day.

Fast Facts 2 Timothy

- (1) Author: Paul**
- (2) Recipient: Timothy**
- (3) Date: AD 64-67**
- (4) Place: Written from a prison cell in Rome**
- (5) Destination: Ephesus (*Timothy was pastor of the church at Ephesus*)**
- (6) Incident: Paul’s imprisonment and pending death**
- (7) Purpose: To encourage Timothy in the face of persecution and apostasy**

Some Key Characteristics of 2 Timothy:

- (1) 2 Timothy is Paul’s last will and testimony** – In our study we are referring to it as Paul’s “Swan Song.” The deathbed statement of any individual has an importance which is not attached to other remarks. This is what lends significance to 2 Timothy. It is the final communication of Paul. It has a note of sadness which is not detected in his other epistles. Nevertheless, there is the overtone of triumph... *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith,”* written by Paul as his own epitaph (2 Tim. 4:7). Also, because this was his last letter, Paul was very personal. In these four short chapters, there are approximately twenty–five references to individuals.

- (2) **2 Timothy is Paul's warning of coming times of apostasy** - In this little book of 2 Timothy an ominous dark cloud is seen on the horizon. It is the coming apostasy. Today apostasy has broken like a storm, like a Texas tornado, on the world and in the church. What do we mean by apostasy? Webster defines apostasy as "total desertion of the principles of faith." So apostasy is not due to ignorance; it is a heresy. Apostasy is deliberate error. It is intentional departure from the faith. An apostate is one who knows the truths of the gospel and the doctrines of the faith, but has repudiated them.
- (3) **2 Timothy speaks of the ultimate outcome of gospel preaching** - The final fruition will not be the total conversion of mankind, nor will it usher in the Millennium. On the contrary, some will believe and for some there will come about a great turning away, not unlike what we are seeing today... even a watering down, compromise, and total perversion of the gospel. Don't think that what we see going on today has caught God off guard. God wrote about it and warned us about in 2 Timothy.

QUIZ: AMAZING FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE QUIZ

JUST FOR FUN... AN INTERESTING QUESTION

Take the following quiz and see if you can figure out what we're talking about...

"I am a book, a best seller that most people on the planet have at one time read or at least casually glanced at. I have touched countless people with its insights and information. The English-language version of me is now distributed in over seventy countries. I open doorways and tell a lot about people and the world. I am found in pretty well every library on the planet. I am available in thirty-seven foreign-language translations. Sales of me are phenomenal, totaling somewhere up near the 100 million mark world-wide. Who (or what) am I? Your Answer: _____"

If you answered "The Holy Bible" you're wrong! The answer to that long, impressive question is "The Guinness Book of World Records." I know, I know... I tricked you! I had you all set up... the study is about the Bible... the discussion is about the Bible... the name on this page is that it's all about the Bible, not Guinness Book of World Records.

Now, Guinness Book of World Records is a good read and has some pretty impressive sales figures. And it also contains life-changing information, like the fact that in 1998 some guy blasted a strand of spaghetti nineteen centimeters from his nose. On every measurable scale, however, Guinness is really "small beans" when compared to the world's best-selling book, which is, as you already know... wait for it... trumpet fanfare, please! "The Bible."

JUST FOR FUN... SOME INTERESTING AND FUN FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

Let me give you some interesting and fun facts about the Bible just to give you a comparison and get us started with this amazing book... the Bible.

Fun Facts About the Bible:

- 1. The Bible is actually made up of 773,692 words and would take someone 70 hours to read**
- 2. Approximately 50 Bibles are sold every minute somewhere in the world**
- 3. The Bible is the best-selling book of all time**
- 4. The Bible is also the world's most shoplifted book**
- 5. The Bible has been translated in over 6,000 languages and dialects around the world**
- As a point of comparison, the works of William Shakespeare have been translated into only 50 languages and Guinness Book of World Records in only 37
- 6. Bible Societies are currently working in over 200 countries producing translations in almost 500 new languages**
- 7. Bible Societies and Christian organizations distribute over 500 million Bibles annually**
- 8. In the past 20 years, over 100 million copies of the Good New Bible have been printed, and that is just one translation** - In China alone, almost 2.5 million Bibles are distributed each year.
- 9. Despite its “thees” and “thous” from the seventeenth century, 13 million copies of the King James Bible are sold every year** – That is to say nothing of the others translations that are walking out of bookshops around the globe every second of every day.
- 10. In the past two centuries, an estimated 6 billion Bibles have been printed** – That's 6,000,000,000... that is 6 with nine 0's after it Bibles that have been printed.

Those figures are pretty staggering. In fact, they are so big it almost defies comprehension. So think of it like this: for about the past two hundred years, a Bible has been sold every few seconds of every minute of every hour of every day... in the last 200 years. At the same rate, the “Guinness Book of World Records” would have sold out after only a few years.

If you were to stack these Bibles (6 billion) one on top of each other, you would have a tower 48,500 miles tall. It would take the space shuttle traveling at full tilt over two hours to get to the top of the tower, and if the tower ever fell over, the weight of its collapse would cause and seismic shift (earthquake) that would knock the earth out of orbit.

If you were to lay all these Bibles (6 billion of them) end to end in a single line, they would... well, let's just say they would go lots and lots of times around the world and then make a three-lane bible-paved expressway up to the top of Mount Everest. But the awesomeness of the Bible goes beyond simple sales figures. It is an awesome book that has had a critical impact on the shape of our world. For almost two thousand years, billions of people have been influenced by it, whether indirectly as the basis of law and morality in their country or directly as their personal guidebook to life, both physical and spiritual.

Half of the people you know were probably named after someone in the Bible – like Matthew, Mark, Luke John, Paul, Daniel, Sarah, Eve, Adam, Mary, Jesus (In South America), Rachel, Elizabeth, Becky (Rebecca), Debbie (Deborah), Mike, Zac, Joe, Josh, and on top of that, who doesn't know at least one Maher-Shala-Hash-Baz... on of my favorite good Bible names.

- No other book even comes close to it.
- No other book is held in such high regard.
- No other book has been smuggled in so many car trunks across dangerous borders.
- No other book has appeared so often in the top drawer of hotel bedside tables.
- No other book has been so widely studied (except maybe *Pride and Prejudice*).
- No other book has caused so much debate and controversy.
- No other book has been “sworn” over so much in courtrooms.
- No other book is so misunderstood by people who've never read it.
- No other book has had so many people living their life by it.
- No other book has had so many people who died for it.

Which leave us with only one question: Why? Why is the Bible so popular, so translated, so widely read and so massively published? It is because the Bible tells us about God. If you were to put the Bible into a nutshell and bring it down to a single, simple definition, it would be: The Bible shows us how to be in relationship with God... which is the biggest and most exciting topic of all time.

Some Application Questions for Discussion:

1. How would you help a person who said, “I’ve tried to read the Bible, but I don’t get anything out of it”?
2. What is the hardest thing for you about consistent Bible reading and Bible study? How can you overcome it?
3. What would you say to a guy who defended his lack of Bible reading by saying, “I’m just not a reader”?
4. If the Bible is sufficient for dealing with our problems, is there a proper place for “Christian” psychology? Why/why not?

Walk into any bookstore and you will find a number of books purporting to tell you how to invest your money so as to get rich. Investing your money in these books makes the authors rich. But there are two questions you must ask about such books...

1. *First, is it reliable? Can I trust what the author is saying?*
2. *Second, is it useful for me?*

The problem with most investment books is that they assume you have a big wad just waiting to be invested. That doesn't help me. I need a book that speaks to where I'm at. If you can

show me a book that is proven to be reliable and useful, I'll buy it and read it. So would you—maybe.

The fact is, we all own a book that tells us how to invest our lives for maximum profit. This book has been proven to be totally reliable. No one has ever followed its life-investment strategy and been disappointed. And, the book is useful to every human being, right where they're at. And yet, strangely, it sits neglected on our shelves while we read newspapers and watch television.

I'm talking, of course, about the Bible. It is a book that is totally reliable and useful for every person, in every country around the globe, no matter what his or her situation in life. It has never let anybody down. Millions down through the centuries have followed its life-investment strategy and found it to be completely satisfying regardless of the trials they have encountered. Most of us own several copies in different translations.

But the Bible is not a good luck charm. Having a copy in a prominent place in the house will not rub off on a family. Like any book, the Bible will profit you only if you read it, study it, and apply it to your life. I want to convince you why you need the Bible... why it is so very important for your life.

The problem is, most of you already subscribe to that proposition in theory. But I want you to go away so convinced of it that you will read, study, memorize, and meditate upon the Bible and apply it on a regular, on-going basis.

- In 2 Timothy 3, Paul has been describing to Timothy the difficult times of the last days (3:1-9).
- He is addressing the question, **How can a Christian survive and prosper in such an evil age?**
- In our passage, in verses 16-17, Paul reminds Timothy of the reliability and profitability of the Scriptures. Timothy already knew that. So do you. But we need it burned into our hearts so that we will apply it.

2 Reasons Why You Need the Bible? (According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- (1) You need the Bible because it is totally reliable**
- (2) You need the Bible because it is useful for all of life**

YOU NEED THE BIBLE BECAUSE IT IS TOTALLY RELIABLE

"¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." -2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

“*All Scripture is God-breathed*” (the best translation). The NKJV says it, “*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...*” This means that God is the originator of Scripture. Since it comes from God who is reliable, all Scripture is reliable. But I want to touch on two questions:

2 Questions Regarding the Phrase, “All Scripture is God-breathed”:

(1) **What did Paul mean by “All Scripture?”** - First, *what did Paul mean by “all Scripture”*? The word translated “*Scripture*” is used 51 times in the New Testament and always refers to some part of the Bible. Sometimes it refers to the entire Old Testament (Luke 24:45; John 10:35), sometimes to a particular Old Testament passage (Luke 4:21), sometimes to a particular New Testament passage (1 Timothy 5:18) and sometimes to a larger portion of the New Testament, as when Peter refers to Paul’s letters as Scripture (2 Pet. 3:16). In our text, Paul was referring to the entire Old Testament and probably also would include the New Testament books that had been written up to the time he wrote, including his own writings.

- Paul directed that his letters be read in the churches (Col. 4:16; 1 Thess. 5:27).
- Several times he claimed that his writings had divine authority (1 Cor. 2:13; 7:10, 12; 14:37; 2 Cor. 2:17; 13:3).
- The only New Testament books written after 2 Timothy were 2 Peter, Hebrews, Jude, and John’s writings.
- While I cannot go into the history of how these books were recognized as authoritative (“canonical”) Scripture, the 66 books of our Bible have generally been so regarded by Christians since the fourth century.

➡ I agree with J. C. Ryle, who stated (*Practical Religion* [James Clarke], p. 71), “The Book itself is the best witness of its own inspiration. It is utterly inexplicable and unaccountable in any other point of view. It is the greatest standing miracle in the world. He that dares to say the Bible is not inspired, let him give a reasonable account of it, if he can. Let him explain the peculiar nature and character of the Book in a way that will satisfy any man of common sense. The burden of proof seems to my mind to lie on him.”

(2) **What does “inspired” mean?** - A second question is, *what does “inspired” mean?* The Greek word means, “*breathed out by God*” and points to God’s initiative and influence as the source of Scripture. Carl Henry defines it as, “*Inspiration is that supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit whereby the sacred writers were divinely supervised in their production of Scripture, being restrained from error and guided in the choice of words they used, consistently with their disparate personalities and stylistic peculiarities*” (*Expositor’s Bible Commentary* [Zondervan], ed. by Frank Gaebelein, 1:25). Or, as Charles Hodge put it, “*Inspiration was an influence of the Holy Spirit on the minds of certain select men which rendered them the organs of God for the infallible communication of His mind and will. They were in such a sense the organs of God that what they said God said*” (*Systematic Theology* [abridged ed., Baker], p. 77).

- Thus the Scriptures find their origin in God.

- They are not the result of human religious genius.
- They are not great ideas of which God somehow approved.
- Rather they are the words of God imparted without error through the various authors.
- While God dictated a few portions of Scripture (e.g., the Ten Commandments), for the most part He allowed each author to use his own personality and style.
- But the final product came from God in the sense, as Hodge expressed it, “what they said God said.”

The bottom line is that *the Scriptures are as reliable as God is*.

What this means...

- (1) If God is the God of truth and if He “breathed out” the Scriptures, then it is inconceivable that they would contain contradictions or errors -
- (2) This does not mean that every sentence in the Bible is to be viewed as a true statement, the Bible also states things as narrative that were not in themselves true
 - John 10:20, “*And many of them said, ‘He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?’*”
 - Matthew 12:24, “*Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, ‘This fellow does not cast our demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of demons.’*”
 - John 7:20, “*The people answered and said, ‘You have demon. Who is seeking to kill you?’*”

**Of course we know that those are false statement about Jesus. He was not demon possessed and He was not “mad.” Those are not true statement, but rather stating falsehoods that were being said of Jesus. The Bible truthfully records the lies and falsehood of its subjects at times.*
- (3) You cannot lift a statement out of context and claim that it is true (e.g., parts of Job, Ecclesiastes, etc.) - (ex. fall from grace in Galatians 5:4, “*You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law, you have fallen from grace*” cannot be taken to mean it is possible to fall from grace... that is out of context) *But taken in its proper contextual setting, the Bible is an accurate and true record of the very words that God wished to record through the various human authors - It is totally reliable.*

Of course the Bible has always had its critics who seek to undermine its reliability. The Bible confronts sinners with their sin. Rather than face their sin, it’s more convenient to attack the Bible. But I agree with John MacArthur (*Our Sufficiency in Christ* [Word], p. 117) when he points out that, “Overt attacks on the Bible are not the worst kind. Rather, the most dangerous attack is the subtle undermining which comes from those who say they believe in the Bible, but who deny its sufficiency for all of life. They say that the Bible is fine for dealing with ‘spiritual’ problems (whatever that means!), but they turn to the wisdom of the world to deal with the tough problems of modern life, as if the Bible did not have God’s answers for living in our modern culture.” But as Paul goes on to show, the Bible is not only totally reliable. Also,

YOU NEED THE BIBLE BECAUSE IT IS USEFUL FOR ALL OF LIFE

Imagine God going to all the trouble to save us and then saying, "You're on your own! Look to the world and maybe you'll figure out how to get through life!"

"¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." -2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

There is no problem in life for which the Bible does not provide God's wisdom, either through explicit teaching or through principles that apply. In 3:16 Paul shows how Scripture is useful and in 3:17 he shows the result of such usefulness.

4 Ways Scripture is Useful: (2 Timothy 3:16)

(1) **Scripture is useful for teaching God's truth** - God's Word is the supreme and final source and standard of truth (Ps. 119:160; John 17:17). It conveys to us God's wisdom concerning the great questions of human existence...

Some Question the Bible Answers:

1. *Is there a God?*
2. *What is He like?*
3. *How can we know Him?*
4. *Who are we?*
5. *Why are we on this planet?*
6. *Why is there death and suffering?*
7. *What lies beyond the grave?*
8. *What does the future hold?*
9. *How do I know right from wrong?*

**These and many other questions are answered in the Bible from God's all-knowing, authoritative perspective.*

Furthermore there are principles and precepts in the Bible concerning all the practical matters we grapple with daily...

Some Principles and Precepts for Life in the Bible:

1. *How do I relate to my mate?*
2. *How do I relate to others?*
3. *How do I raise my children?*
4. *How do I manage my money?*
5. *How do I conduct my business?*
6. *How do I make wise decisions?*
7. *How should I think?*

8. *How do I control my emotions, such as anger, depression, anxiety, and impulsiveness?*

9. *How do I overcome temptation?*

**The Bible speaks practically on these and many more matters*

The Bible is like the instruction manual you get when you buy a new computer. The manufacturer explains to you how to operate the equipment for maximum results. It would be foolish to spend a lot of money on a new computer and then ignore or, even worse, violate the manufacturer's instructions.

God created people. The Bible is His instruction manual on how to live for best results. The fact that the Bible is profitable for teaching implies, of course, that it is necessary to study it. God chose to communicate His truth in written form

Key Thought: One of the great tragedies of American Christianity is that the species, "pastor-theologian," is almost extinct. We have forgotten that the greatest theologians of the past—men like Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Jonathan Edwards, and the Puritans—were pastors. Today pastors flock to church growth seminars that give proven methods for increasing church attendance and managing a growing church. Theology? It's an interesting hobby for a few quaint pastors, but not very relevant to the work of the modern pastorate. (See David Wells, *No Place for Truth* [Eerdmans], for an excellent study on this.) As a result, pastors are not preaching God's truth and God's people are starving for the spiritual nourishment of the great doctrines of God's Word.

We desperately need to know the living God and to know ourselves as revealed in His Word of truth. To do this you must expose yourself to Scripture from every source so that you can grasp its principles and understand how to apply it to your life. Obviously it is not a one-page instruction sheet. You don't catch it by reading a few favorite texts now and then. You need to hear it taught by faithful expositors. You need to read it over and over, comparing Scripture with Scripture so that you have the balance of the whole counsel of God. You need to study it in more depth. You need to memorize key verses. And you need to meditate on God's Word (think about it carefully).

(2) **Scripture is useful for confronting our sin - "Reproof"** means to convince or expose. In Greek, the verb means not merely to reply to, but to refute an opponent. It meant that a lawyer convinced the judge and jury as to the specific wrongs of his opponent's case.

This means that the Bible has the power to expose sin in our lives and to convince us that we are in the wrong. If you're thinking, "Why would I want *that* to happen?"

Why Would I Want Scripture to Expose Sin in My Life?:

1. *We need Scripture to expose our sin because sin will ruin your life!* - It's only by exposing your sin that you can then confess and forsake it and be careful to avoid it in the future.
2. *We need Scripture to expose our sin because we all tend to justify our sin and blame others for problems that our sin created - As Proverbs 19:3 says, "The foolishness of a man twists his way, and his heart frets against the Lord."*
3. *We need Scripture to expose our sin because if you're not using the Bible to confront your own sin, then you're not growing in righteousness as God would have you to do -*

There was once a little boy who loved his mother's strawberry jam. She put it on the top shelf and told him not to get into it while she ran some errands. He resisted for a while, but finally he succumbed. He put the chair by the counter, climbed up and could just reach his finger into the jam. He enjoyed his illicit treat until he heard his mother coming. He quickly climbed down and was standing there trying to look innocent when she walked in. His mother said "John, have you been in the strawberry jam?" He looked her right in the eye and said, "No." She repeated, "John have you been in the jam?" His eyes fell down to her belt-line, and he said, "No." A third time she asked, and this time his eyes fell to her shoes, but he still said, "No." She asked a fourth time, "John have you been in the jam?" This time his eyes fell even lower, so low that he looked right in the middle of his shirt and saw a spot of strawberry jam. (Story told by James Boice, at Dallas Seminary.) That's how the repeated reading of God's Word works on us, to bring us to apply it to ourselves.

The first time through we say, "This really applies to that no-good neighbor of mine. I wish he'd read it!" The second time we say, "This is good stuff for those obnoxious people at church." The third time we say, "I wish my wife and kids would read this! It would really improve our family life." The fourth time we see the spot on our own shirt and say, "Oh, Lord, I need to deal with my own sin!" The Word reproves us.

- (3) **Scripture is useful for correction** - The Word doesn't just point out where we're wrong and leave us there. It also tells us how to get right with God, with others, and with ourselves. It helps restore us to the proper path of God's ways. When we become aware of sin in our lives, it tells us how to confess it and appropriate God's forgiveness. It tells us how to be reconciled with those we have wronged. It tells us how to overcome harmful habits, how to break off harmful alliances, and how to mend broken family relationships.
- (4) **Scripture is useful for training in righteousness** - Once we're back on the path, the Bible tells us how to stay there and make further progress. "Training" means, literally, "child-training." This implies a process where God teaches us how to deal with all of life. Just as parents work with their children over the years to train them in various social

graces, morals, relational skills, and useful habits, so God, through His Word, trains us in all areas of life so that we can know what pleases Him. No matter where you're at, whether a babe in Christ or a mature saint, the Scriptures are useful in your life. But the final result is not so that we might live a happy, selfish life. Paul shows us ...

THE RESULT OF SCRIPTURE'S USEFULNESS (2 Timothy 3:17)

Notice our passage again, paying close attention to verse 17 this time, *"¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."* -2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

Here are two things Paul is reminding Timothy of (and us) that are the result of our faithfully using and pour ourselves into God's Word.

2 Results of Using Scripture As Our Guide in Life:

- (1) **Using the Scripture will result in maturity** – The first part of verse 17 tells us that *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable... (v.17) that the man (or woman) of God may be complete..."* The word means whole or complete, sound of body and mind, full-grown, especially something fitted for its intended purpose (R. C. Trench, *Synonyms of the New Testament* [Eerdmans], p. 77). Since God made you for His purpose, only His Word—not this world's wisdom—is able to fit you for that purpose. The Bible will enable you to form a Christian world-view, so that you think and respond to all of life as God intends. There is no such thing as a mature man or woman of God apart from being strong in the Word of God. But maturity is not an end in itself.
- (2) **Using the Scripture will result in service** – The last part of verse 17 says *"...thoroughly equipped for every good work."* "Equipped" means to be furnished or supplied. You will have adequate resources to minister to others. It's not mere theory—you have proven through experience in the crucible of life the truth of God's commandments and principles in His Word. Thus you can confidently impart that truth to others, because you aren't imparting your own ideas about life, but rather the very words of God, which you have applied to your life and proved reliable.

CONCLUSION

It is my prayer and aim that each person in this church would become a mature man or woman of God through knowing experientially the Word of God. I want each of you to know the great doctrines of the faith as a means of knowing the living God and of knowing your own heart. Each of us needs to let the Word confront our own selfishness, pride, anger, lust, greed, and abusive speech. We need to let the Word correct us and keep us on the path of righteous living in this wicked world. Then we can use the Word as God has used it in our lives to minister Christ to others.

The late Bible teacher, H. A. Ironside, told of visiting a godly Irishman, Andrew Frazer, who had come to California to recover from tuberculosis. The old man could barely speak because his lungs were almost gone. But he opened his worn Bible and, until his strength was gone, he simply, sweetly opened up truth after truth in a way that Ironside had never heard before. Before he knew it, Ironside had tears running down his cheeks. He asked Frazer, "Where did you get all these things? Could you tell me where I could find a book that would open them up to me? Did you learn these things in some seminary or college?" Frazer answered, "My dear young man, I learned these things on my knees on the mud floor of a little sod cottage in the north of Ireland. There with my Bible open before me, I used to kneel for hours at a time, and ask the Spirit of God to reveal Christ to my soul and to open the Word to my heart. He taught me more on my knees on that mud floor than I ever could have learned in all the seminaries or colleges in the world." (H. A. Ironside, *In the Heavens* [Loizeaux Brothers], pp. 86-87.)

You own a Bible. But do you use it to teach you about God and godly living? It is the only reliable book that tells you how to invest your life. It is useful and sufficient for all of life and godliness. I strongly urge you to begin today consistently to read, study, memorize, and meditate on the Bible.

If you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, the Scriptures are "able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (3:15). Read the Gospel of John and ask God to impart His gift of eternal life to you. Jesus promised (John 5:24), "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

3 Remarkable Statements the Bible Makes About Itself:

1. **It always accomplishes its purpose (Isaiah 55:11)** *"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."* (Isaiah 55:11 NKJV)
2. **It will never die, lose its purpose or power, and will never fade in importance (Isaiah 40:8)** - *"The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."* (Isaiah 40:8 NKJV)
3. **It is always right and pure truth (Psalm 19:8 & 33:4)** - *"The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;"* (Psalms 19:8 NKJV) *"For the word of the LORD is right, And all His work is done in truth."* (Psalms 33:4 NKJV)