

# 1. THE WORD OF GOD

## Purpose

Establish the scriptures as the standard for our lives

## Some Facts About The Bible

- » Greatest selling book in history
- » 66 books (39 in Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament)
- » Written over period of about 1500 years
- » Written by 40+ authors with various backgrounds (shepherd, fisherman, king, doctor, theologian, tax collector, etc.)
- » Contains dozens of prophecies that have been fulfilled
- » Historically accurate

## 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Wise for salvation - The Bible teaches us how to find salvation.

- » **God-breathed** - The Bible is from God himself, communicated through chosen men (Paul, John, Luke, etc.).
- » **Equipped for every good work** - Scripture should be used to teach, correct, rebuke and train us in every aspect of our life: marriage, parenting, righteousness, decision-making, relationships, etc.

## Hebrews 4:12-13

- » **Alive and active** – The Bible applies to our lives today as it did when written.
- » **It judges** - The Word reveals our heart, our motivations, and our attitudes.
- » **Uncovered and laid bare** - God can see everything in our hearts.

## Matthew 15:1-9

- » **Rules taught by men** - Many grow up learning and practicing religious tradition, some which contradict scripture (they are “in vain”).
- » **Scripture first** - Following scripture is more important than honouring tradition.
- » **Hearts are far from me** - God wants our hearts, not just lip service. Insisting on following traditions that break God’s commands show that our hearts are far from him.

## John 8:31-32

- » **Hold to Jesus’ teachings** - We are expect to “abide” in Jesus teachings.
- » **Truth will set you free** - Jesus’ teachings are a source of truth and freedom.

## John 12:47-50

- » **I did not come to judge the world** - Jesus came to bring hope, grace, and God’s word to a lost world.

- » **There is a judge for the one who does not accept my words** - We are allowed to make our decisions now. Judgment will come at the last day. Jesus' words will be the standard.
- » **The Father commanded me to say** - Jesus' words are God's words. They speak in unison.
- » **His command leads to eternal life** - The hope in following God's word is salvation.

### Acts 17:10-11

- Q:** What qualities listed here made the Bereans noble?
- Eagerness - They were eager to hear God's word.
  - Examined daily - they looked thoroughly at scripture daily.
  - Pursuit of truth - They did not just accept what the religious leaders were saying; they checked the scriptures themselves.

### Take the "Berean Challenge" and imitate these three characteristics:

Be eager to learn  
 Examine God's Word daily  
 Search for truth

### Are you willing to:

- Q:** Accept the Bible as the standard for your life?  
**Q:** Humbly let the Bible expose your heart and make necessary changes?  
**Q:** Eagerly study God's word everyday?

## CHALLENGE

Start reading the gospel of Mark.

## FURTHER STUDY (CAN BE GIVEN AS HOMEWORK)

- 2 Samuel 22:31     The Word of God is flawless.
- Psalms 119:97-104     The Bible gives us tremendous wisdom.
- Isaiah 66:1-2     The Bible is worthy of deep respect.
- Matthew 7:24-27     Obedience to the Word is our solid foundation.
- Romans 10:17     Faith is developed by reading the Word of God.
- 1 Peter 1:22-25     We are born again through the Word of God.
- John 1:14     The Word became flesh - Jesus is the Word of God in bodily form.