



Sermon Notes

Paris First Baptist Church

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The Results of Calibrating with the Word

Psalms 119:11

“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

“When the preacher’s car broke down on a country road, he walked to a nearby roadhouse to use the phone. After calling for a tow truck, he spotted his old friend, Frank, drunk and shabbily dressed at the bar.

“What happened to you, Frank?” asked the good reverend. “You used to be rich.”

Frank told a sad tale of bad investments that had led to his downfall.

“Go home,” the preacher said. “Open your Bible at random, stick your finger on the page and there will be God’s answer.”

Some time later, the preacher bumped into Frank, who was wearing a Gucci suit, sporting a Rolex watch and had just stepped out of a Mercedes.

“Frank,” said the preacher, “I am glad to see things really turned around for you.”

“Yes, preacher, and I owe it all to you,” said Frank. “I opened my Bible, put my finger down on the page and there was the answer—Chapter 11.” (*Reader’s Digest*, March, 1993, p. 71)

Over the years there have been some errors that occurred while printers printed Bible.

- **CAMELS BIBLE** In 1832 an edition had Rebekah leaving her tent to meet Isaac with a group of - not damsels - but camels.
- **WIFE-HATER BIBLE** An 1810 version read, “If any man come to me, and hate not ... his own wife (instead of “life”), he cannot be my disciple.”
- **“SIN ON” BIBLE.** The first English-language Bible to be printed in Ireland, in 1716, encouraged its readers to “sin on more” rather than “sin no more.”
- A similar error in 1653 had declared: “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall inherit the kingdom of God?”
- **THE WICKED BIBLE** of 1631 reported the Seventh Commandment as “Thou shalt commit adultery,” a mistake that infuriated King Charles. He ordered all copies destroyed and fined all printers whose hands had touched the edition.
- **MURDERER’S BIBLE.** This 19th-century faux pas had Mark 7:27 as “Let the children be killed” instead of “filled.”
- **PLACEMAKER BIBLE.** a 16th Century printer had Jesus blessing the “place-makers” instead of “peacemakers.”
- An American printer later substituted the “Parable of the Vinegar” for the “Vineyard.”



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- PRINTERS BIBLE. Perhaps King David was on target in a 1702 edition, which quoted him as saying “Printers (instead of “princes”) have persecuted me without cause.

I- Because the Bible is the Word of God:

I feel by this point in our series we have established the fact that the Bible is the Word of God. The question now is what are we going to do with it. Allow me to offer a few things the Bible does because it is God’s Word. What are the results of Calibrating our Compass with the Word?

1- It Gives Life:

I saw a sign going to Nashville on the back of a truck that said, “It takes a living Savior to save a dying world.” The Bible reveals the way to life.

1 Peter 1:23 “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

James 1:18 “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

2- It Reveals Sin:

“Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them.” - Author unknown

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

“When evangelist John Wesley (1703-1791) was returning home from a service one night, he was robbed. The thief, however, found his victim to have only a little money and some Christian literature.

As the bandit was leaving, Wesley called out, “Stop! I have something more to give you.” The surprised robber paused. “My friend,” said Wesley, “you may live to regret this sort of life. If you ever do, here’s something to remember: ‘The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin!’” The thief hurried away, and Wesley prayed that his words might bear fruit.

Years later, Wesley was greeting people after a Sunday service when he was approached by a stranger. What a surprise to learn that this visitor, now a believer in Christ as a successful businessman, was the one who had robbed him years before!

“I owe it all to you,” said the transformed man.



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“Oh no, my friend,” Wesley exclaimed, “not to me, but to the precious blood of Christ that cleanses us from all sin!”

(*Our Daily Bread*, October 1, 1994)

The Bible reveals men’s sins to them. This, I submit is the reason men hate the Bible so.

3- Prevents Malnutrition

Not many things touch our heart the way pictures of a child dying of starvation touches us. I thought about this and wondered if we could see ourselves the way God does what would he see. I look in the mirror and see one who has meat on my bone and fat on the meat. I look nourished and robust. Well nourished and fed on physical food.

The question that disturbs me is how does God see me when He looks at my spiritual condition. Does He see me as a starving child who is malnourished and starving? Many times we allocate time for every thing and in fact even lie to ourselves about how much we are feeding on the Words of life. *1 Peter 2:2* says, **“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”**

“A door-to-door salesman from a publishing house asked a lady if she owned a copy of the Bible. "I certainly do!" she replied with some pride. To his next question, did she read it regularly, she responded, "Oh, yes!" and sent her little daughter to get the Bible from the table drawer. As she showed it to the man, her spectacles fell from between the pages. Without thinking, she exclaimed, "Oh, here are my glasses! I've been looking for these for 3 years!"” by Pastor L.E. Brown

Hosea 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”

II- What Do We Do With It:

1- Believe it, Accept it, Settle it.

“Within the covers of one single book, the Bible, are all the answers to all the problems that face us today—if only we would read and believe.” - Ronald Reagan

Psalms 119:89 “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.” It is settled in heaven and we should settle the issue of it being the Word of God in our hearts. Have you settled the question in your heart concerning the Word of God?

“In a nationwide survey of Americans, the Barna Research Group found that 58% do not know who preached the Sermon on the Mount. Most Americans



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cannot identify the names of the first four books of the New Testament. Half of all adults (52%) did not know that the book of Jonah is in the Bible. Half of all adults (48%) did not know that the book of Thomas is not in the Bible. Seven out of ten adults did not know that the expression “God helps those that help themselves” is not contained within the Bible. (Quoted in *Why Christians Sin*, J. Kirk Johnston, Discovery House, 1992, p. 68)

Beloved the world rejects the Bible but they do it without giving it a chance. They reject it not because they have proven it wrong but because it proves them wrong.

Many however in all walks of life walk by and practice the Word everyday.

“My doctor had recommended surgery and referred me to a specialist. Arriving early for my appointment, I found the door unlocked and the young surgeon, deeply engrossed in reading, behind the receptionist’s desk. When he didn’t hear me come in, I cleared my throat. Startled, he closed the book, which I recognized as a Bible. “Does reading the Bible help you before or after an operation?” I asked. My fears were dispelled by his soft, one-word answer: “During.” Eleanor Schmidt, in *Reader’s Digest*

2- Hide it away in our heart.

Someone said, “A Bible in the hand is worth two in the bookcase.” - Author unknown The Psalmist says in *Psalms 119:11* “***Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.***”

We need to accept its warning of danger ahead. By hiding the Word of God in our hearts we will walk straighter and steadier than we ever have. The Bible warns us of the danger of being caught in sin illustrated kind of like the story told about a little boy.

“A police officer had a perfect hiding place to catch speeders. But one day, when everyone was under the speed limit, the officer found the problem: a ten year old boy was standing on the side of the road, holding a huge sign which said “RADAR TRAP AHEAD.” A little more investigative work led the officer to the boy's accomplice, another boy about 100 yards beyond the radar trap with a sign reading “TIPS” and a bucket at his feet, full of change.”

Have you ever thanked God for preventing you from being caught in a trap because His word warned you to avoid something? Have you ever given God a tip if you will.

3- Know there is no new and improved version of the truth.



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God told Moses in *Deuteronomy 12:32* “*What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.*”

God told John in *Revelation 22:19* “*And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*”

Men are always coming up with new and improved. There will never be another revelation from God apart from His Word beloved. Regardless of the changing winds of opinion we need to know the perfect word of God need not nor indeed cannot be improved upon. This by the way does not prevent modern translations of the Word.

4- Accept the Life it brings.

1 John 5:13 “*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*”

Rom 10:17 “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”

Are you tuned in or tuned out to the message of the Word? Have you heard the voice of the Holy Spirit as He speaks to you or are you willfully ignoring Him?

“A former park ranger at Yellowstone National Park tells the story of a ranger leading a group of hikers to a fire lookout. The ranger was so intent on telling the hikers about the flowers and animals that he considered the messages on his two-way radio distracting, so he switched it off. Nearing the tower, the ranger was met by a nearly breathless lookout, who asked why he hadn’t responded to the messages on his radio. A grizzly bear had been seen stalking the group, and the authorities were trying to warn them of the danger.

Any time we tune out the messages God has sent us, we put at peril not only ourselves, but also those around us. How important it is that we never turn off God’s saving communication!” Harold M. Wiest, *Power for Living*, p. 109