



"Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and
a light unto my path"

Text—NIV Version. AUC Resources PO Box 116 Mitcham, Victoria 3132 Australia.



Life's VITAL ANSWERS

**Understanding God's
Word.**

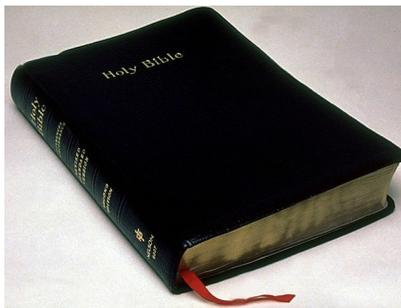


The way God has revealed His will to humans is through the Holy Scriptures, or as we say, the Bible. It is true that the evidence of God can be seen as we look into the wonderful world of nature, and as we behold the stars in the heavens, but His will for our lives is found in the Bible only. Take away the Bible and our contact with God is lost. It has been affectionately termed, God's love-letter to the world, and so it is, for here we see His plan revealed for the salvation of lost humanity. How did the Bible come to us? Did God write it? The answers to these questions are clearly given.

2 Timothy 3:16 All _____ and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

Notice that all Scripture comes from God. It does not say that God did the actual writing, rather, God inspired certain men. He gave revelations of truth, and God's chosen writer wrote it down in a way understood by his fellowman. God did not use these holy men as we use a typewriter, instead, He told them what to write and they recorded it in their own words. This is why we see different styles of writing in the Bible, but even so, the truths presented are always the same. The Bible is in complete harmony from Genesis through to Revelation.

See how the Bible is profitable for doctrine (teaching of truths), for re-proof when we are wrong, for correction if we are in error and instruction that we may know the correct path to follow in life.



God's Word is a lamp to our feet.

2 Peter 1:21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

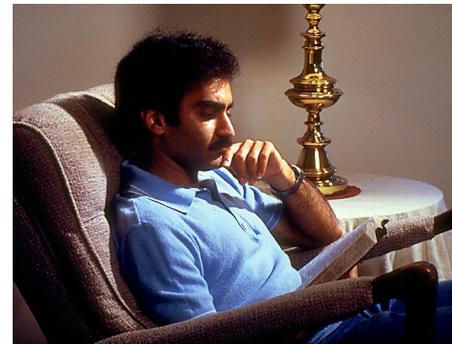
Prophets did not choose to write the Bible – God chose holy men to write it for Him. The Bible has been written by approximately 40

2 Timothy 3:17 . . . so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The word 'perfect', used in the King James Version, was understood by Bible writers to mean 'mature'. When we understand and read the word of God we develop to the stage of maturity in our Christian living – we grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus.

My friend, the greatest joy in your life can be in reading the letter God has sent you – the Bible. Read it in the morning, and read it in the evening. It is not necessary to read a lot in each sitting, but rather, read a small section, then meditate on what you have read and try to understand it and apply it to your life. This will give you the right attitude for prayer, and will give your prayer life new meaning. If you are a new Christian it may be easier to read the New Testament before the Old, or alternate between the two.

God has done so much for us in giving us the Bible, but He also gave us His Son to die on Calvary. Today He is asking for your life, that He might save it for eternity. Friend, read His Word and you will know how to live a life of victory through Christ.



Daily Bible study is important for spiritual development.

Is it your plan to read some of God's word (the Bible) each day? _____

ble. Spiritual things are understood only by those who are spiritual. Our understanding does not come from mental ability, but from revelation of the Spirit of God. As we are prepared to receive so it is given.

1 Corinthians 2:13,14 This is what we speak, _____, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

If we are on the Lord's side, we will understand great things out of His word.

Matthew 7:21 Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

What shall we do with the Bible? It is God's will for us, so we are required to willingly obey otherwise we will never inherit the kingdom of God.

John 7:17 If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.



We need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to understand the Bible.

Many today are confused – they don't know what to believe, but we will not be in darkness if we are prepared to do God's will. This is the condition, and if we meet this requirement we will clearly understand the difference between truth and error. It will be like the voice of God saying, "This is the way – walk in it".

men, over a period of thousands of years, yet there is in fact only one Author – the Holy Spirit. He is the source of inspiration.

Luke 24:44,45 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the _____ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.



Jesus had total confidence in the scripture

Jesus had confidence in the Scriptures, and here we see Him explaining the truths concerning the promised Messiah. Notice how Jesus divided the Old Testament Scriptures into three sections.

The Law of Moses – often called the Pentateuch, it is the first five books of the Bible.

The Prophets – this is the rest of the Old Testament, excluding the Psalms.

The Psalms – which were used in a similar way as we sing hymns today.

John 20:30,31 Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But _____ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Now we come to the inspiration of the New Testament. The Old is the New concealed, and the New is the Old revealed. The Old Testament said Jesus was coming, the New tells us of His coming to this planet and that He is coming again. We cannot separate the Old Testament from the New.

Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

When God's word is deeply embedded in our lives it gives us the knowledge and power to overcome sin through Jesus.

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a _____ and a light for my path.



Paul commended the Bereans for searching the Bible every day.

If we are on a bush track on a dark night with no torch, we are in danger of falling and getting lost. The torch, however, shows the way clearly. We are in a world of spiritual darkness, but the Bible is our light to show us the way to eternal life, that we might not fall and be lost. The Scriptures give us patience, comfort and hope.

Acts 17:11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and _____ to see if what Paul said was true.

Paul commended the Bereans because of their study of the Scriptures on a daily basis. As the truths are read in an attitude of prayer, wonderful spiritual revelations flash into the mind. The only way to study the Bible is in an attitude of prayer. This is why it is good to say a short prayer before reading the Bible so that God will enlighten the mind.

How should we interpret the Bible? Compare Scripture with Scripture. The Bible is not written in subject form. For example, the second coming of Christ is mentioned in many different books of the Bible. If we want to know what the Bible teaches on this subject, the texts are brought together so that we can see the complete pic-

ture. To appreciate an artist's work we need to see the whole picture, not just a small part of it. So the Bible becomes its own interpreter. It is not a person's interpretation – it is what the Bible says about itself. Many have made the mistake of building a teaching around one or two texts and have come to wrong conclusions.

Acts 8:30,31 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. _____ So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

The full story of the Ethiopian eunuch's deeper understanding is found in Acts 8:26-39. Philip understood the words of Isaiah, which the Ethiopian did not. God therefore used a man who understood the truth, to explain it to one who did not. So God uses men and women today to reveal wonderful things in His word to those who do not yet understand, then they themselves become teachers to others. They become Jesus' sheep – they hear His voice and follow Him.



Phillip studying with the Ethiopian Eunuch.

John 5:39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me.

When we search the Scriptures, we find the greatest treasure of all – Jesus – the way to eternal life.

Matthew 11:25 At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have _____ and revealed them to little children."

It is not our intellectual greatness that helps us to understand the things of God. In fact many of the world's intellects scoff at the Bi-