

# ***What about the Bible?***



## **32) What is the Bible?**

- A. The word "Bible" comes from a Greek word meaning "book."
- B. The Bible, written under divine guidance, is accepted by all Christians as the Word of God. It is God's love letter and instruction book written to His people.

"And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe."

1THESS 2:13 NIV

- C. It is made up of 66 books that were written by more than 40 Holy Spirit inspired men over a period of 1600 years.
  - 1. The authors include kings, priests, prophets, apostles, evangelists, and a doctor.
- D. It is further organized into major sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament.

## **33) What are the books of the Old Testament?**

- A. The Old Testament contains 39 books. It was written in Hebrew.
  - 1. History and law (The Pentateuch; The Torah) - 5 books
    - a. Genesis
    - b. Exodus
    - c. Leviticus
    - d. Numbers
    - e. Deuteronomy
  - 2. History - 12 books
    - a. Joshua
    - b. Judges
    - c. Ruth
    - d. 1 & 2 Samuel
    - e. 1 & 2 Kings
    - f. 1 & 2 Chronicles
    - g. Ezra

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- h. Nehemiah
    - i. Esther
  - 3. Wisdom Literature - 5 books
    - a. Job
    - b. Psalms
    - c. Proverbs
    - d. Ecclesiastes
    - e. Song of Solomon
  - 4. Major Prophets - 5 books
    - a. Isaiah
    - b. Jeremiah
    - c. Lamentations
    - d. Ezekiel
    - e. Daniel
  - 5. Minor Prophets - 12 books (These books are called "minor" in respect to their size, not their importance.)
    - a. Hosea
    - b. Joel
    - c. Amos
    - d. Obadiah
    - e. Jonah
    - f. Micah
    - g. Nahum
    - h. Habakkuk
    - i. Zephaniah
    - j. Haggai
    - k. Zechariah
    - l. Malachi

### 34) What are the books of the New Testament?

- A. The 27 New Testament books were written in Greek.
  - 1. Gospels - 4 books
    - a. Matthew
    - b. Mark
    - c. Luke
    - d. John
  - 2. History - one book
    - a. Acts
  - 3. Pauline Epistles (including Hebrews) - 14 books
    - a. Romans
    - b. 1 & 2 Corinthians
    - c. Galatians
    - d. Ephesians
    - e. Philippians
    - f. Colossians
    - g. 1&2 Thessalonians
    - h. 1&2 Timothy
    - i. Titus
    - j. Philemon
    - k. Hebrews

4. General Epistles - 7 books
  - a. James
  - b. 1 & 2 Peter
  - c. 1, 2 & 3 John
  - d. Jude
5. Prophecy - One book
  - a. Revelation

### 35) Is the Bible trustworthy?

- A. Yes! Although it was written over a period of 1600 years by over 40 men, the common thread that guarantees its accuracy and inspiration is the Holy Spirit.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,"

2TIM 3:16 NIV

"Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. [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."

2PETER 1:20-21 NIV

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

JOHN 17:17 NIV

"And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe."

1THESS 2:13 NIV

- B. It gives an accurate picture of man, both kings and paupers, showing their strengths, weaknesses, and sins.

### 36) What is the value of studying the Bible?

- A. The Bible reveals Jesus to us.
1. Throughout the Old Testament, the people of God are promised a "Messiah" who would bring them deliverance.
  2. In the New Testament Jesus is shown to be the "Messiah" or "Christ". He is the Savior that delivers us from the burden of our sin.

"You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me,"

JOHN 5:39 NIV

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

JOHN 20:31 NIV

"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. ... [31] Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. [32] They asked each other, "Were

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not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

LUKE 24:27, 31-32 NIV

B. The Bible is our guide to living.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

PSA 119:105 NIV

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

PSA 119:11 NIV

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. [13] But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."

JOHN 16:12-13 NIV

C. It teaches us how to live righteously before a Holy God.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,"

2TIM 3:16 NIV

D. It tells us of God's great love for us.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

JOHN 3:16 NIV

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

ROM 5:8 NIV

E. It teaches us how to love God.

"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

JOHN 14:21 NIV

"Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror [24] and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. [25] But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it - he will be blessed in what he does."

JAM 1:23-25 NIV

F. It helps us set our priorities.

"He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread

**38) Won't studying the Bible become boring after I have read it cover to cover?**

- A. No. The Word of God is always new. It is a living book. As you mature in God, you will see and understand familiar passages in a new light. Each time you study the Bible you can uncover different truths that God has hidden in the verses.

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

HEB 4:12 NIV

"The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple."

PSA 119:130 NIV

"It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings."

PRO 25:2 NIV

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group Leaders: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Homework for Chapter 4

Please answer the following questions from the textbook in full sentences and return to your Group Leaders next week.

- 1) Who is the author of the Bible?

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- 2) How many books are found in the Old Testament? How many books are found in the New Testament?

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- 3) Is the Bible trustworthy? Why?

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- 4) List three reasons it is valuable to study the Bible.

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- 5) Explain why reading the Bible never needs to become boring.

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