

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

THE WORKS OF THE BIBLE (PART 2)

SCRIPTURE READING:

- “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe” (1 Thess 2:13).
- “Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?” (Jer 23:29).
- “How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Ps 119:30).

INTRODUCTION:

- A. BIBLE, a Friend. “Thank God, I have a Bible!” said a poor old woman in London. “What should I do without a Bible? It was the guide of my youth, and it is the staff of my age. It wounded me, and it healed me; it condemned me, and it acquitted me. It showed me I was a sinner, and it led me to the Saviour. It has given me comfort through life, and I trust it will give me hope in death.”
- B. “The Bible is the voice of God in print” – Tony Evans
- C. “Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; The Book widens and deepens with our years” – Charles Spurgeon
- D. The Bible is **Inspired** (2 Tim 3:16-17), **True** (John 17:17), **Eternal** (Isa 40:8), **Authoritative** (James 1:22), **Clear** (Ps 119:130), **Sufficient** (2 Peter 1:3), **Powerful** (Rom 1:16; Heb 4:12), **Christ-centered** (John 5:39-40, 46) and **Precious** – Our Comfort (Ps 119:50 and **Treasure** (Ps 119:72).

For this study, we will examine **The Works of the Bible** in three different ways (additional ways are forthcoming in future studies).

I. **The Bible is to Strengthen Us**

- “My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word” (Ps 119:28).
- **Strengthen** means to arise, stand up, carry, help, restore, comfort
- A. **The Word of God can strengthen us** – and lift us to go on during times of grief, sorrow, financial crises, hardships, afflictions, and death of loved ones.
- B. **The Comfort of God** – allows us to abandon striving in our own trust during stressful times and come to rest in His strength.

- “³Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; ⁴Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God” (2 Cor 1:3-4).

C. Christians have a comfort from God – that includes true freedom from the guilt and penalty of sin.

- “¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved” (John 3:16-17).
- “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Ps 46:1).
- “The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth” (Ps 145:18).

II. The Bible is to Give us Hope

- “Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope” (Ps 119:49).
 - **Hope** means to wait, trust, tarry, wait expectantly
 - **Hope** means a sure expectation of a good outcome or positive result.
- A.** As Believers, we wait for the “**Blessed Hope**” which is the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ, our Great God and Savior.
- “¹²Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; ¹³Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:12-13).
 - 1. The “**Blessed Hope**” is the joyful assurance that Jesus will return for His church. We are waiting for this event to occur (John 14:3; Acts 1:11).
 - 2. The “**Blessed Hope**” is that Jesus could return at any time (Acts 2).
- B.** As Believers, we trust in Jesus alone for Salvation. Jesus is the Hope of our Salvation (Rom 8:24-30).
- My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus’ blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame. Nut wholly lean on Jesus’ name. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.
- C.** As Believers, God has given us the new birth that provides a living hope through “The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Dead.”

- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Pet 1:3).
- The Believers Living Hope is anchored in the past. Jesus died and rose from the dead (Matt 28:6-7). It continues in the present (Col 3:1; Rev 1:18). It endures throughout the future – Jesus promises Eternal Life (John 3:15; 4:14; Rom 5:24; Rom 6:22; 1 Cor 15:23).

D. As Believers, we are to trust in the Lord at all times – during good times and difficult times.

1. God knows what will happen next. God is omniscient – He knows everything (Ps 147:4-5; Matt 10:30; 1 John 3:20).
 2. God is with us (Ps 23:4).
 3. He will never abandon us (Deut 31:6; Heb 13:5).
 4. God is our refuge – our safe place (Ps 46:1; 62:7-8).
 5. We are to wait patiently on the Lord (Ps 40:1).
- “Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all” (Ps 34:19).
 - “For thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth” (Ps 71:5).
 - “But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more” (Ps 71:14).
 - “**I do not know what the future holds, but I know who hold the future**” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - “**I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord till I die.**” – (African American Spiritual).

III. The Bible is to Keep us from Going Astray

- “Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word” (Ps 119:67).
- **Astray** means to commit sin or error, deceive, wander, mislead
- **Affliction** – to disturb, do violence, force, oppress, mistreat; to go our own way, to do wrong, straying.

A. Before Afflictions: Straying - A person neglects his duty and falls into sin. It is to depart from what is right to do what is wrong. Straying is disobeying the Word of God.

B. “But now have I kept thy Word” – After experiencing afflictions, a godly person recalls going astray and returns to paths of duty, righteousness, and holiness. Recalling what going astray cost us serves as a healthy deterrent against repeating them. It is afflictions that can lead us back to God and His Word.

C. During Afflictions: Learning

- “It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes” (Ps 119:71).
- It is during our afflictions that we learn matters that we would not otherwise know. Afflictions may only last for a moment, but the benefits of afflictions are forever. We may view afflictions as a means to harm us. However, God can use our afflictions for good. Through our afflictions, we learn about God and His Word.
- “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Rom 8:28).
- “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Cor 4:17).

D. After Afflictions: Knowing

- “I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me” (Ps 119:71).
- After afflictions the spiritual mature Christians can confess the following: “I know, O Lord.” We need to remember that:
 1. God created us and cares deeply for us (Ps 139:14-16; Jer 1:5).
 2. We need God’s help to understand His Word and to obey it (John 14:6; 1 Cor 2:10-14).
 3. We need God’s help to stay faithful so we can be a strong testimony and be a blessing to others (Matt 5:16; 2 Cor 1:5-6).
 4. We need to remember that everything God does is always right. God is always faithful to us, even in the midst of afflictions. He is for us, not against us (1 Cor 1:9; 1 Pet 4:19).
- **The Faith that Obeys: Now have I kept thy Word”** (v. 67).
The Faith that Affirms: It is good for me that I have been afflicted” (v. 71).
The Faith that Glorifies: “Thou in faith hast afflicted me” (v. 75).

Study Questions:

1. How would you describe your attitude and appetite for the Word of God? Has Covid-19, the situation in Afghanistan or any other events affected this attitude? If so, how?

2. Think about a time when God provided you with comfort through His Word. What were the circumstances, and what passage did He use to comfort you? (Titus 2:12-13).
3. How often do you think about the “Blessed Hope”? Are you listening for the “**shout**”, “The voice of the archangel and ... are some valuable lessons you have learned from your afflictions?”
4. What are some valuable lessons you have learned from your afflictions?
5. Based on the lessons learned from your afflictions, have you reached the point that you agree with the Psalmist – “It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes” (Ps 119:71).

MEMORY VERSE:

“Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart” (Ps 119:2).

CONCLUSION:

A. The Works of the Bible in Three Different Ways: (1) The Bible is to Strengthen Us, (2) The Bible is to Give Us Hope, and (3) The Bible is to Keep Us from Going Astray.

B. The Bible

“Yes, ‘tis a mine of precious jewelry, The Book of God; a well of streams Divine!
But who would wish the riches of that mine to make his own, his thirst to satisfy, From that pure well; must ear, eye, soul, apply; On precept precept scan, and line on line; Search, ponder, sift, compare, divide, combine, For truths that oft beneath the surface lie,” – Maut.

C. The ABC’s of Salvation

- **A**dmit That You Are A Sinner. *“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Rom 3:23)
- **B**elieve On Christ. *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved”* (Acts 16:31).
- **C**onfess Your Faith. *“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation”* (Rom 10:9-10).

From the Teaching Ministry of:
Pastor Carl Bennett
Corinth Christian Fellowship
August 18, 2021

“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).