

# Back To Basics

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## **FIVE SPIRITUAL MUSTS**

*Johnie Edwards*

**T**he word “must” is the strongest word in the English language. The Holy Spirit used the word “must” to emphasize some things there is no way around. We must:

1) **BELIEVE THAT GOD IS.** There is no way one can please God without faith in Him. The Hebrew writer penned, “But without faith, it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb. 11:6). One might do everything God says, but if he does not believe that God is, he is “condemned already” (Jn. 3:18). Someone might ask: “What about those who do not believe in God?” The answer: “It is impossible for them to please Him!”

2) **BE BORN AGAIN.** Jesus answered Nicodemus by saying, “Ye must be born again” (Jn. 3:7). Seeing that the Jewish ruler was thinking of a physical birth, Jesus explained, “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (Jn. 3:5). Many misunderstand the new birth, but to be “born of water and of the Spirit” is simply to follow the directions of the Holy Spirit as He taught, “Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized?” (Acts 10:47).

3) **BE BAPTIZED.** Bible baptism is a must as can be seen when Jesus answered Saul of Tarsus, “Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do” (Acts 9:6). Now read Acts 22:16 to learn the must. “Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” Baptism is a must, if you expect to be saved (1 Pet. 3:21).

4) **WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH.** We are not allowed to worship just any way we choose, if we want to please God. Jesus told the woman at the well, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (Jn. 4:24). This means to worship God in the right frame of mind and according to the Word of God, which is the “truth” (Jn. 17:17).

5) **BE A MAN.** The cry of some today is for women to be elders and to be placed in other roles of leadership in the church. According to 1 Timothy 3:1, “A bishop (elder) then must be blameless, the husband of one wife.” Would you say this means a man or a woman? It is still true, “But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence” (1 Tim. 2:12).

May we get back to these basic musts!

## **"WHERE THE SOUL NEVER DIES"**

*Johnie Paul Edwards*

**W**illiam Golden wrote, "To Canaan's land I'm on my way, where the soul never dies." Have you thought about being on your way to Canaan's land?

### 1) **"TO CANAAN'S LAND I'M ON MY WAY."**

In Genesis 12:5, Abram, Sarai and Lot came into the land of Canaan. The Canaanites were then in the land and the Lord told Abram, "Unto thy seed will I give this land" (Gen. 12:7). Numbers tells of Israel's sojourning to Canaan and in Numbers 10:29 Moses invited, "we are journeying unto the place of which the Lord said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good." Joshua 21:43 and 45 say, "And the Lord gave unto Israel all the land which he swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass." When we speak of being on our way to Canaan, we speak of being on our way to Heaven. Are you on your way to Canaan's land?

2) **"I WILL SPEND ETERNITY WHERE THE SOUL NEVER DIES."** Folks are interested in eternity. One came to Jesus and asked, "Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have

eternal life?" (Mt. 19:16). Paul wrote, "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Ti. 1:2). Not all will spend eternity in "Canaan's land." Many will spend their eternity in everlasting punishment (Mt. 25:41, 46).

3) **"CANAAN'S LAND IS A PLACE OF EVERLASTING JOY, NO PARTING, NO TEAR DIMMED EYES, AND A PLACE OF LOVE."** Our joy is often interrupted by sorrow. Canaan's land is a place of everlasting joy. Paul spoke of rejoicing in the day of Christ that he had not run or laboured in vain (Phil. 2:16). "Goodbye" can be a very sad word. The song "God's Family" says, "And tho' some go before us, we'll all meet again: Just inside the city as we enter in; there'll be no more parting, with Jesus we'll be together forever, God's family." We can dwell in an "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Cor. 5:1). In Heaven, "God shall wipe away all tears" (Rev. 21:4). Those who inherit "Canaan's land" are those who forbear "one another in love" (Eph. 4:2).

4) **"WHERE THE SOUL NEVER DIES."** Our bodies die, but the soul never dies! Paul taught, "For this corruptible must put on incorruption..." (1 Cor. 15:53). Where will you spend eternity?

# **Back To Basics**

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## "IN FEW WORDS"

John Isaac Edwards

Most people have difficulty saying things in few words. This is why many sermons are longer than they need to be, and why most articles take more space than is required. One thing that stands out about the preaching and writing of men of God of the New Testament is the fact that they spoke and wrote "in few words" (Eph. 3:3). We need to be impressed with how much can be taught and learned "in few words."

1) **ONE CAN TEACH AND LEARN ABOUT GOD.** You don't have to ramble on and on for 2 hours in teaching someone about God. One can teach about God in few words. In few words, one can learn there is a God as Genesis 1:1 records, "In the beginning God..." It can be pointed out how God expects certain things of man, in few words, as the Bible says, "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Eccl. 12:13). In few words, one can be informed of the character of God as Paul said, "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God..." (Rom. 11:22).

2) **ONE CAN TEACH AND LEARN ABOUT BIBLE AUTHORITY.** You don't have to read a 500-page essay to learn about Bible authority. You can learn about authority in few words. In few words, it can be shown that Christ is the absolute authority as Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Mt. 28:18). One can learn, in few words, that in all things the church is governed by the authority of Christ as "the church is subject unto Christ" (Eph. 5:24).

3) **ONE CAN TEACH AND LEARN ABOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH.** How many words do you think it takes to teach someone how many

churches there are? The Bible says, "one body" (Eph. 4:4), "which is the church" (Col. 1:24). In like manner, one can teach and learn about the work, worship and organization of the church, in few words.

4) **ONE CAN TEACH AND LEARN ABOUT THE PLAN OF SALVATION.** Peter told those on Pentecost what they needed to do and why they needed to do it, in few words, as he commanded, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38). This is being left out of many sermons today. Why? It can be said in few words!

### Five Spiritual Musts

Johnie Edwards.....1

### "Where The Soul Never Dies"

Johnie Paul Edwards.....2

### "In Few Words"

John Isaac Edwards.....3

### Introduction To The Scriptures

Aude McKee.....4

### The Objective Nature Of Truth

Chris Bates.....5

### The Word Of God

R. L. Whiteside.....6

### Some Things Said Of The Word

John Isaac Edwards.....7

### Do You Believe What Jesus Said?

Lloyd L. Nash.....8

### Basic Differences In Islam And Christianity

David A. Beck.....9

### Kid's Activity Page

Paul Adams.....10

### Preaching The Plan Of Salvation

Joe R. Price.....11

# INTRODUCTION TO THE SCRIPTURES

*Aude McKee*

**O**f all the things you can name that enrich your life, none can compare with the Scriptures. The word is found 52 times in the New Testament and one time in the Old Testament. Twice the Scriptures are said to be holy (Rom. 1:2; 2 Tim. 3:15), and indeed they are sacred, set apart. Men produce writings without end, but the writings given us by God are altogether different. They stand apart from all others because divine wisdom authored them.

In most of the 52 references, the word refers to the writings of the Old Testament. But the word is also used to identify the New Testament writings. In 1 Timothy 5:18 we read, “For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And the laborer is worthy of his reward.” The first quotation is from Deuteronomy 25:4, but the second is found in Luke 10:7. So the Holy Spirit, under the word “scripture,” included both the Old and New Testaments. Peter made a statement that also shows New Testament writings are Scripture. In 2 Peter 3:15-16 he said, “And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you. As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.” Here the phrase “other scriptures” make what Paul wrote as much scripture as any other divinely inspired writings.

God’s revelation to man is identified by a number of different words or phrases. Psalm 19:7-11 clearly demonstrates this. We underline the words that illustrate the point: “The law of the Lord

is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether...” The same is true of 1 Peter 1:22-25: “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth...Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away; but the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”

The Old Testament contains 39 books that for the sake of classification can be divided into law (5), history (12), poetry (5), major prophets (5), and minor prophets (12). The New Testament has 27 books of which 4 (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) are biographies of Christ, 1 (Acts) is a record of the establishment and growth of the Lord’s church, 21 (Romans through Jude) are letters written to individuals and churches, and the last (Revelation) is a book of prophecy. Yet, as you read the Scriptures you must be amazed that so much information is contained in such a small volume. Genesis begins with the creation of all things, and the book of Revelation closes with a description of heaven, the eternal abode of the saved. The Bible contains all that man needs to know to make his life here worthwhile and his existence beyond death something to desire.

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# THE OBJECTIVE NATURE OF TRUTH

Chris Bates

**T**ruth is determined by God. The Psalmist wrote, “For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven” (Ps. 119:89). Where there is a denial of truth, there is a denial of God. Jesus said the Word of God is truth (Jn. 17:17). Thus, God has a standard for us to follow. Let’s observe some examples which show that truth is objective (never changing), rather than subjective (mere opinions).

1) **NOAH UNDERSTOOD TRUTH.** Hebrews 11:7 records, “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.” Noah lived during a horrible time - a time in which every thought of man’s heart was only evil continually (Gen. 6:5). God spoke concerning the destruction of the entire earth by flood. He commanded Noah to make an ark of gopher wood according to various specifications (Gen. 6:14-16). Eight souls gave heed to the truth and were in the ark when the flood waters came upon the earth (1 Pet. 3:18-21). All who were outside the ark perished in the flood. Had they obeyed the truth preached by Noah (2 Pet. 2:5), while the ark was being prepared, they would never have perished. This Bible example clearly shows that truth is not subjective, but objective.

2) **THE JEWS ON PENTECOST UNDERSTOOD TRUTH.** As Peter preached the gospel, on the day of Pentecost, there were some who understood their need to be forgiven by God for murdering Jesus, as well as all their past sins. Having asked what they should do, Peter responded, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remis-

sion of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:37-38). There were about 3,000 who obeyed the truth (Acts 2:41), and were thus added to the church by the Lord (Acts 2:47). Some balk at us today when we preach the same message Peter preached on Pentecost. However, we are instructed to preach “the oracles of God” (1 Pet. 4:11), which is the truth of God.

3) **WE MUST UNDERSTAND TRUTH.** Jesus said, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (Jn. 8:31-32). In order to be true disciples of Christ, we must continue in the truth, the Word of God. Paul penned, “Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ” (Eph. 3:4). Again, “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:17). We have the responsibility to understand the Word of God. Those who neglect this responsibility will die without God and be eternally lost (2 Th. 1:7-9). Try as one may, truth can never be made subjective!

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## THE WORD OF GOD

R. L. Whiteside, "Dead Yet Speaketh"

**T**he Word of God is the seed of the kingdom. Read carefully the Parable of the Sower (Mt. 13:1-23; Mk. 4:1-20; Lk. 8:4-15).

God is the author of all laws in nature and grace, and all operate on the same principle. Jesus makes Christians like a farmer makes a harvest, by sowing the seed. In nature, we have the following facts: 1. All fruit is the product of seed. 2. Seed must be planted. 3. Every seed produces its own kind. 4. Seed unmixed will produce the same fruit the world over; the same here as in Asia, the same now as in the days of the apostles: may differ in amount, but not in kind.

The following are the corresponding facts in the spiritual kingdom: 1. All Christians are the product of seed. No seed, no Christians. 2. "The seed is the Word of God." Nothing else will make Christians. It will make nothing else. 3. The Word must be planted in the soil, in the heart. It is good for a farmer to pray for an abundant harvest, but he need not expect it unless he sows the seed. We should pray for a great harvest of souls, but we need not expect it unless we sow the seed, preach the Word. 4. This seed, the Word, sown unmixed with man's doctrines, will produce the same fruit the world over: the same here as in Asia; the same now as when the apostles preached. There is no excuse for different kinds of Christians. These differences show that mixed seed has been sown. 5. Divine fruit is the product of divine seed. Human doctrines will never bear divine fruit. Hence, preach the Word only, and the fruit will always be the same.

Peter declares that this seed lives and abides forever (1 Pet. 1:22-23). Some declare the word is a dead seed; it will not benefit the saint or sinner. No amount of preparation of soil will cause dead seed to produce a harvest.

No amount of preparation of soil will produce vegetable life. The seed must be planted, or no harvest. No matter how much the sinner's heart may be prepared, divine life will never be there until the divine

seed, the Word, is planted in it. What fruit does the Word produce? 1. Faith (Rom. 10:17). 2. Repentance. God's goodness leads to repentance. But we learn of His goodness in the Word (Rom. 2:4). 3. Baptism. The Word commands it, and to refuse is to reject God's counsel (Lk. 7:29-30). 4. New birth (1 Pet. 1:22). 5. Salvation (Jas. 1:21). 6. Makes Christians, only; only Christians. Other seed is necessary to produce other fruit. 7. Leads into the church of God. The Word will not lead you into an institution or church which it does not mention. It will not lead you to be anything that it did not lead the apostles to be. It will produce no fruit now that it did not then. True, there were many local congregations or churches, but they were of the same faith. There is no ecclesiastical organization of these churches. Each was independent of the other. God planted His church in the world. Every other plant will be rooted up (Mt. 15:13).

***"The Word will not lead you into an institution or church which it does not mention. It will not lead you to be anything that it did not lead the apostles to be."***

**Hear the word. Believe the word.  
Obey the word. Teach the word.**

## SOME THINGS SAID OF THE WORD

John Isaac Edwards

**T**here are many statements made about the Word of the Lord in the Scriptures, every one of which deserves our attention. This writing brings to focus four things said of the Word.

### 1) THE WORD OF THE LORD IS RIGHT.

So said the Psalmist as he extolled the name of the Lord in Psalm 33:2-4. "Praise the Lord...For the word of the Lord is right..." Have you ever wondered if what you believe, teach, or practice is right? If it is according to the Word of the Lord, then it is right. Yet, if what you believe, teach or practice is right in your own eyes or in the eyes of other men, but is not according to the Word of the Lord, then it is not right!

### 2) THE WORD OF THE LORD IS GOOD.

As Isaiah the prophet came unto king Hezekiah and spoke the Word of the Lord, Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "Good is the word of the Lord which thou hast spoken..." (Is. 39:8). There are many things concerning which it is said today, "This is good." Sometimes men have it backwards, as Israel of old, as they "call evil good, and good evil" (Is. 5:20). Show me something that is in harmony with the Word of the Lord, and I'll show you something that is good!

3) **THE WORD OF THE LORD IS PURE.** A thing is either pure or impure. There is no such thing as partly pure, partly impure. At times, men are puzzled by a marriage question, whether a particular marriage is pure or impure (Heb. 13:4). If one's marriage is in compliance with the Word of the Lord, then his marriage is pure for, "Every word of God is pure..." (Prov. 30:5). But, if it is demonstrated that one's marriage is not according to the Word of the Lord, then, regardless of what any man may think or say about it, his marriage is not pure!

### 4) THE WORD OF THE LORD IS TRUTH.

We are bombarded with religious error. We can turn on the television and hear an acclaimed evangelist say one thing, turn the channel and hear something altogether different. And so we are faced with the age-old question, "What is truth?" (Jn. 18:38). The Bible echoes back the answer, in John 17:17, "thy word is truth." If a man's teaching is in agreement with the Word of the Lord, then he is teaching the truth. But, if it is pointed out where a man's teaching is inconsistent with the Word of the Lord, then he is not teaching the truth! May our faith rest solely upon the Word of the Lord (Rom. 10:17) and not in the wisdom of men (1 Cor. 2:5).

### **Evangelize Your Community**

*Mark 16:15-16*

The material presented in *Back To Basics* lends itself to Christians and non-Christians alike. Some have expressed interest in a mass mailing of *Back To Basics* to a targeted audience in their community. *Back To Basics* can be personalized with the information of the church (time of services, address, phone number, radio program, etc), and economically distributed in your community. If you are interested in doing a one-time mass mailing, we have material that fills that need. If there is something special you would like to send, we can compose material to fit your situation. If you have an interest in evangelizing your community, please contact us.

# DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT JESUS SAID?

Lloyd L. Nash

Some people believe some things Christ said, but fail to really believe everything He said. To fully believe in Christ is to believe everything He said.

Jesus rebuked Peter for not believing what He said would happen in Jerusalem. The Lord said He would be killed and raised again the third day (Mt. 16:21-22). When Peter expressed disbelief, Jesus turned and said unto him, "Get thee behind me, Satan, thou art offensive unto me, for thou savorest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men" (Mt. 16:23).

1) **DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT THE WAY?** Do you believe what Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me?" This is to say, there is only one way to get to the Father's house. Jesus stated in John 10:1, "He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." Thieves and robbers, if they die in their sins, have no chance to make it into Heaven (Jn. 10:10; Rev. 21:8).

2) **DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT THE CHURCH?** Do you believe what Jesus said in the coasts of Caesarea Philippi about building the church (Mt. 16:13-18)? In verse 18, Jesus said, "And I say unto thee that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." When I was going to school, teachers led me to believe that "it" is singular, meaning one, and not the Babylon and confusion that we face everyday in the religious world. Some believe that all churches belong to Christ. Those who pro-

fess that man-made churches are just as good as Christ's church are promoting blasphemy. Christ's church was purchased with His blood (Acts 20:28). Christ said He would build on a rock. That rock was Himself (1 Cor. 10:4).

3) **DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT THE NEW BIRTH?** Do you believe what Christ told Nicodemus about being born again (Jn. 3:3-5)? When Nicodemus questioned rebirth, Jesus answered, "Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Note: He said, "except a man be born of water and Spirit, he cannot see the kingdom of God." There are many false teachers today that would have you believe you don't have to do what Christ commanded. Little man, big man, learned man, unlearned man, rich man, poor man: It does not matter. This procedure must be followed or you will not see the kingdom of God!

4) **DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT BEING BAPTIZED?** Do you believe what Christ told the eleven in Mark 16:15-16? He said unto them, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved but he that believeth not shall be damned." This shows us that baptism is essential to salvation. You may say you can't understand that. Let me help you. If your bank tells you that he who believeth and is baptized shall receive \$1,000,000, could you understand that? I believe you would, and no one could talk you out of being baptized. Will you respond as those in Acts 2:36-41?

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## BASIC DIFFERENCES IN ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY

David A. Beck

To show the basic differences in Islam and Christianity, all I would need to do is post a picture of the twin towers of the Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Muslims try to convince us that this was done by a small radical fringe element, and that Islamic people worship the same God we do. They claim they only want peace with Christians. However, the Qur'an teaches Muslims that Christians are the enemy. "Fight those who believe not in God nor the last day...nor acknowledge the religion of truth...until they pay the Jizya (tribute tax) with willing submission" (Qur'an 9:29). The very name "Islam" is an Arabic word for "submission." Muslims are prohibited from taking Christians for friends and those who do so are counted as wrongdoers (Qur'an 5:52; 9:23). Here are some key differences in Islamic beliefs and Bible teachings.

1) Muslims claim that Ishmael rather than Isaac was the son promised to Abraham and that God's promises would flow through him. The Qur'an claims that Ishmael purified God's house and raised its foundations (2:126, 128); that he was one of the patriarchs (2:137; 3:85); that he was exalted with Elisha, Jonah, and Lot (6:87); and that he was a messenger and prophet (19:55). However, the Bible says that Ishmael would be "a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward his brothers" (Gen. 16:12).

2) Muslims claim to be believers in Jesus when they talk with Christians. They offer a booklet, "We Believe In Jesus." But nothing could be further from the truth! The Qur'an declares, "Allah has not taken on a son nor is there any deity along with Him..." (23:91). The

Qur'an denies that Jesus is God's Son, the resurrection of Christ, and Muslims discount His message as lies.

3) Muslims claim there is only one person in the Godhead. The Qur'an teaches, "So believe in ALLAH and HIS Messengers, and say not, 'they are three.' Desist, it will be better for you. Verily, ALLAH is the only One God. Holy is HE, far above having a son" (4:172). The Qur'an teaches that one who confesses Jesus as God is an "unbeliever," is "forbidden heaven," and deserves "fire" and "grievous punishment." The Bible teaches there are three persons in the Godhead: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Mt. 28:19; 1 Jn. 5:7). Further, the Bible teaches that Jesus was, is, and forever will be, God (Mk. 2:5-10; Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:3).

The Muslim disposition toward those who disagree with them is ISLAMIC JIHAD. They consider all non-Muslims the enemy and give only three choices for us: 1) Convert to Islam; 2) Pay the protection tax and agree not to oppose Islam; or 3) Die.

The nation of Islam is not a far away place that is insignificant to us. It is a religious system with religious ideals that has become a great threat, not just to our way of life, but to our ability to function in peace as Christians. Over one fifth of the world is now Muslim and it is the fastest growing religion in the United States. Don't be duped into thinking they desire peace. We need to fight back, not with violence and hatred, but with the Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:10-17).

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# Kid's Activity Page

Paul Adams

**Memory Verse:** "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, through furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The Bible is the inspired Word of God. This means that God gave men the words that He wanted to be in the Bible. The Bible is a book made up of 66 books.

## Matching

Match the statement about the Word of God with the verse where it is found.

power of God	1 Peter 1:23
inspiration of God	John 17:17
sword of the Spirit	2 Timothy 3:16-17
liveth and abideth for ever	Ephesians 6:17
truth	Romans 1:16

## Word Search

B	M	G	G	Y	J	E	E	L	W	G	N
P	R	E	V	E	L	A	T	I	O	N	L
J	K	L	Y	A	Q	Z	S	M	O	W	R
H	D	V	V	D	T	I	E	A	R	K	V
K	D	Y	U	Q	S	B	V	L	E	D	I
R	N	H	M	E	M	O	P	A	Y	S	R
V	W	Z	N	E	G	V	M	C	M	W	U
V	A	E	Y	K	E	H	N	H	F	X	G
T	G	D	L	A	L	Z	N	I	D	O	G
W	S	K	O	T	T	I	U	M	D	G	A
K	M	X	H	M	M	A	Z	D	D	A	U
Z	W	E	H	T	T	A	M	R	I	O	Q

- The first book of the New Testament.
- The last book of the New Testament.
- The first book of the Old Testament.
- The last book of the Old Testament.
- Men of God spoke as they were "moved by the \_\_\_\_\_ Ghost" (2 Peter 1:21).
- We must never "\_\_\_\_\_ unto" the Bible (Revelation 22:18).
- We must never "\_\_\_\_\_ away" from the Bible (Revelation 22:19).
- The Bible is given by "inspiration of \_\_\_\_\_" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

**"Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).**

# PREACHING THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Joe R. Price

God's plan to save sinners has been accomplished in Jesus: In Him we have redemption through His blood..." (Eph. 1:7). The word of this salvation is God's power to save sinners (Rom. 10:8; 1:16). The New Testament reveals God's plan of salvation. What God has done for sinners and expects of sinners to be saved are set forth in its pages. God's love, mercy, and grace are extolled from cover to cover (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:6-11; Eph. 2:4-7).

The call to have faith in Jesus as the Son of the living God is heard therein (Jn. 8:23-24; Heb. 11:6; Rom. 10:17). The necessity to confess one's faith in Jesus as the Christ is firmly established therein (Mt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Tim. 6:12). In its pages, the command to repent is forcefully proclaimed by Jesus and His apostles (Lk. 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30-31). The need to be baptized is firmly fixed there as well (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Gal. 3:27; 1 Pet. 3:21). Faithful living is also essential as a child of God (1 Jn. 1:6-9; Rom. 12:1-2).

The plan of salvation is at the heart of man's redemption in Christ. Thus, we proclaim that the lost must obey God's will to be saved (Mt. 7:21; Heb. 5:9). Why then do many preachers preach without offering the Lord's invitation to obey His plan of salvation? Why is it that in many pulpits across the land one rarely hears mention of what to do to be saved when the "gospel" is preached?

We have heard preachers conclude their sermons with, "If anyone has a need, come forward as we stand and sing," and we are made to wonder, "What need?" Have you told the sinner his need, preacher? Or have you assumed they

know what they need? Truly, a serious and unwarranted assumption!

Perhaps, some have become ashamed of the gospel's simple plan of salvation (Rom. 1:15-17). Perhaps, some who ought to know it do not (Heb. 5:12). Fellow preacher, preach that life is short, death is sure, the judgment is certain, sin is real and Christ is our only means of salvation! If we preach these gospel truths, how can we not also teach the lost what they must do to be saved and invite them to come to Jesus (Mt. 11:28-30)?

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## "Blessed Is He That Readeth"

Daily Bible Reading Schedule For March

Day	Morning	Evening
1	Num. 24-27	Mk. 8:1-38
2	Num. 28-29	Mk. 9:1-29
3	Num. 30-31	Mk. 9:30-50
4	Num. 32-33	Mk. 10:1-31
5	Num. 34-36	Mk. 10:32-52
6	Dt. 1-2	Mk. 11:1-19
7	Dt. 3-4	Mk. 11:20-33
8	Dt. 5-7	Mk. 12:1-27
9	Dt. 8-10	Mk. 12:28-44
10	Dt. 11-13	Mk. 13:1-13
11	Dt. 14-16	Mk. 13:14-37
12	Dt. 17-19	Mk. 14:1-25
13	Dt. 20-22	Mk. 14:26-50
14	Dt. 23-25	Mk. 14:51-72
15	Dt. 26-27	Mk. 15:1-26
16	Dt. 28	Mk. 15:27-47
17	Dt. 29-30	Mk. 16
18	Dt. 31-32	Lk. 1:1-23
19	Dt. 33-34	Lk. 1:24-56
20	Josh. 1-3	Lk. 1:57-80
21	Josh. 4-6	Lk. 2:1-24
22	Josh. 7-8	Lk. 2:25-52
23	Josh. 9-10	Lk. 3
24	Josh. 11-13	Lk. 4:1-32
25	Josh. 14-15	Lk. 4:33-44
26	Josh. 16-18	Lk. 5:1-16
27	Josh. 19-20	Lk. 5:17-39
28	Josh. 21-22	Lk. 6:1-26
29	Josh. 23-24	Lk. 6:27-49
30	Jud. 1-2	Lk. 7:1-30
31	Jud. 3-5	Lk. 7:31-50

## *We Get Letters*

“Thank you for a publication that is truly needed. Keep up the good work and may the Lord continue His blessings on you and your efforts.”

“You brethren have hit the proverbial nail on the head. There is a great need in the Lord’s church today for teaching basics. You have started a good work. I pray for a great success on your effort in encouraging Christians and congregations to return to the basics.”

“I was privileged to read number one of Back To Basics and was impressed by the content and believe it will fill a need, not only for those of us who have been members of the Lord’s church for many years, but for those who are young in the faith.”

“Thanks for sending us the first issue of your journal. We pray that much good will come from this endeavor. Enclosed is a check to cover our subscription.”

“This is such a great idea and very badly needed in this age. The church is being lulled into complacency and is in need of the basics to bring it back to where God would have it. I appreciate the good work being done.”

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