

Remnant Life Church  
September 1, 2019  
*The Word of God*  
Introduction  
Psalm 119:105-112

The political convention was in chaos. Each delegation wanted something different. Some favored states' rights, others wanted a stronger central government. Larger states wanted greater representation, and small states wanted an equal voice. Debate dragged on and on. Finally, the committee chairman admitted the situation was hopeless.

After several weeks of fruitless effort, the oldest delegate present slowly rose to his feet as voices were silenced in deference and respect. Addressing the chairman, he said, "The little progress we have made after four or five weeks is melancholy proof of the imperfections of human understanding. I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth – it is God who governs the affairs of men". Citing the Bible he added, "And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings that "except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." I firmly believe this, and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in political building no better than did the builders of Babel.

The speaker of those words was Benjamin Franklin. It is ironic that Ben Franklin, who for most of his life was not considered devout in his faith, turned to the scriptures in a time of crises.

At 81 years of age, using the Bible for his examples, Benjamin Franklin helped to bring a clear vision to the convention that eventually brought the delegates together, and as a result of their unity, a great document was produced, the Constitution of the United States of America.

The Bible has long served in many ways in the lives of most people

- It has been a lifeline of comfort and encouragement
- It has been a source of wisdom and direction as it was for Dr. Franklin
- And it has been and remains the authoritative and life-changing Word of God

For the next several months we will be taking a journey through the Bible

We do this for many reasons:

- To examine and better understand the structure of the Bible itself
  - As someone who grew up in church, the Bible has always been a part of my life
  - It holds a place of great reverence in my life
  - Cannot set anything down on top of it
  - Because of that I rarely ever questioned or wondered about any aspect of it or how it came to be
- We will look at how it came to be in the form we know it today (the canon)
- To answer why it is the most important book ever written and assembled
  - A Christian today must know how to defend what he/she believes
  - Can you argue (defend) your faith and the Word of God?

- We will start in Genesis and systematically work our way through the Old and New Testaments
  - Some books we will only mention or do an overview and some books will be grouped together
  - Others we will spend considerable time on
- And we will talk about themes
  - Not only of the books themselves
  - But also both testaments and the entire theme of the Bible
- My prayer is that you will come to love and appreciate God's Word more deeply and know the importance of it for your life

While the Bible is arranged to some degree in a chronological order, that is not the case all the way through (Job not Genesis; Mark not Matthew)

- That is why the Bible cannot be read as you read a novel or any other book for that matter
  - The Bible is not a book of history although there are certainly historical records present
  - It is not a book of science although science and the suspension of science is recorded
  - It is not even a book of philosophy although philosophical issues are addressed
  - It is not a book of behavioral sciences although how we live and respond to life are all throughout the Bible
  - The Bible, very simply, is a love story revolving around Jesus
  - And that story is broken down into three segments
    - The message of the O.T. (law, history, the major and minor prophets and poetry) – Jesus is coming.
    - The message of the Gospels – Jesus is here.
    - The message of the N.T. – Jesus is coming again.
- The first books gathered together were the 5 books written primarily by Moses called the Pentateuch or The Law
  - These writings were the guidelines for worship, community living, justice, tradition, and learning (10 Commandments)
  - Exclusively utilized from the birth of Israel until the coming of Jesus when He said, *A new command I am giving to you, that you love one another.* (John 13:34)

The Composition of the Bible –

- 66 total books
  - 39 OT
  - 27 NT
- Written over a period of approximately 1500 years; on 3 continents; in 3 different languages (Hebrew; Greek; Aramaic) – all brought together in a perfect cohesion
  - The first book was written around 1450 BC
    - Most scholars believe that Job was the first written
    - All dating and statistical information is in one degree or another debated
- Each of the books, with the exception of Obadiah, Philemon, 2/3 John, and Jude are divided into chapters and verses

- Over 40 men contributed to the work
- The books range in size from the 150 chapters of Psalms to the 13 verses of 2<sup>nd</sup> John
  - The 119<sup>th</sup> Psalm has 175 verses divided into 22 sections to match the 22 characters that make up the Hebrew alphabet
  - The 117<sup>th</sup> Psalm, however, is comprised of only 2 verses
- Originally there were no chapters and verses
  - In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Archbishop Stephen Langton devised a method to schematically divide the Bible which is what the chapter divisions we know today are based on
    - There are 1189 chapters in the Bible of which Psalm 117 is the center
  - Many scholars from the 10<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries are credited with contributing to the adding of verses
    - The first printed Bible with chapter and verse divisions was the Geneva Bible printed in 1560
- The Bible has been translated into more than 1200 languages
- More copies have been printed and sold than the next 50 best selling books combined

### READ – Psalm 119:105-112

The Bible is described as many things each to be used by us in life today.

#### 1. Lamp -

- a. **Psalm 119:105** - *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*
- b. Every answer to every question of life is found in the Bible
  - i. Relationships, money, dealing with success and failure, temptation and sin
- c. Some people do use it as a lamp while others as a candle

#### 2. Sword for battle

- a. **Ephesians 6:17** - *Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*
- b. The sword in biblical times was a weapon of defense AND offence throughout the entire Bible

#### 3. Sword for pruning

- a. **Hebrew 4:12**- *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.*
- b. Reasons to prune plants include deadwood removal, shaping (by controlling or directing growth), improving or maintaining health, reducing risk from falling branches, preparing nursery specimens for transplanting, and both harvesting and increasing the yield or quality of flowers and fruits.
  - i. This can easily be seen as a metaphor for the full life of the Christian
  - ii. Perhaps why you read so much of this type of example in the Word
- c. The parables of Jesus often used themes associated with growing
  - i. Sowing and reaping
  - ii. Vine and the branches

- d. **Pruning is almost always painful** but is necessary to see true growth come into our lives – moving deeper into maturity

#### 4. Flawless

- a. **Psalm 18:30** - *As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him.*
- b. Trust in the Word of God not the words of man
- c. Truth today in the world is based on what is popular, acceptable and PC even if it goes against what has been held as true since the beginning of time
- d. **II Peter 1:20-21** - *Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 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.*

#### 5. Seed

- a. **Luke 8:11**- *"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.*
- b. Jesus uses the parable of the sower to show how people receive the Word – we still see those very same ways today.
  - i. Keep
  - ii. Give away
  - iii. Plant

Use the Word every day to see where you are going

- Do battle with the enemy
- Put power into your prayers
- Know what you need to do in order to grow
- Be comforted in where you put your faith and trust
- To spread God's Word by showing Him to others in your life.