

Essential Equipment

The Bible Is Essential

The Bible is Essential Equipment for Believers

- The Bible is not just another book on the shelf
- The Bible is the **essential book** for believers
- The Bible is also a **vital book** for our spiritual growth
- The Bible is also an **indispensable book** for believers because we can't fail to use it and *still* expect to live in a way that pleases God
- The Bible is **primary book** in our lives
- The Bible is also the **matchless book**, it has no rivals, it has no equals
- The Bible is also our "**go to**" book
- Where would we be without the *essential* Word of God?

The Bible Is Essential for....

Knowing the Character of God

- When we read the Bible, we get to know the Person and character of God
- The Bible is the *revelation* of God to us
- Just by reading the Bible we'll know God is the Creator and Sustainer of the world **Genesis 1:1 (KJV)1 *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.***
- Here a few character traits of God
 - Holy **Leviticus 11:44 (KJV)44 *"For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: ..."***
 - Love **1 John 4:8 (KJV) 8 *He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.***
 - Forgiving **Isaiah 1:18 (KJV) 18 *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.***
 - Only God forgives and forgets our sins **Isaiah 43:25 (KJV) 25 *I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.***
 - Merciful - **Hebrews 4:16 (KJV) 16 *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.***
 - Unchanging **Numbers 23:19 (KJV) 19 *God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or***

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***hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?
Hebrews 13:8 (KJV) 8 Jesus Christ the same
yesterday, and to day, and for ever.***

- By reading and studying the Bible ourselves, we know the character of God personally and are not swayed the ever-changing opinions of people

For Knowing God's Word

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV) 15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- It is *essential* that believers know the Word of God
- We are to build our lives *on* the Word of God and build the Word of God *into* our lives
- We are called to *study* God's Word
- *Study* here means diligent, quick, suggesting we put for the *labor of study* and the timeliness of study
- We study the Word of God for our spiritual development *and* for God's approval
- God's *approval* is often tested by trial
- We are to be diligent workers that are not ashamed of our work in the Word
- We are not ashamed of our work in the Word because we are *rightly dividing* the word of truth
 - *Rightly dividing* means to "cut straight"
- As we study, we *cut straight* to the truth
- What we've studied is *free* of our own ideas, unbiblical theories, and the opinions of the world
- We are not to "manipulate or mishandle" the Word of God
- We must not *over-emphasize* or *de-emphasize* the Word; add to or take away from it.
- God *knows* what He wants to say
- Any person who mishandles God's Word is not *approved* of God
- If we desire God's approval; if we want to be acceptable to God; we must truly study God's Word

Our Spiritual Development

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

- All scripture is given by the *inspiration of God*, inspiration of God means *God-breathed*

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- It is *inspiration of God, not* man that breathed-out or produced the Bible
- Men wrote the Bible based on what *God* breathed out
- Our spiritual growth and development as believers are directly tied to our reading, studying, learning, living by the Word of God
- The Bible is *profitable* or beneficial for our spiritual development as believers
 - *Doctrine* - Revealing to us the truth
 - God wants us to know beyond doubt who God is; who we are; and the beginning, meaning, and end of all things.
 - *Reproof* – The Bible reveals God’s will and exposes our rebellion and the consequences of our disobedience to the will of God
 - The Bible reveals God's will and the consequences of disobedience to His will.
 - *Correction* – The Bible shows us how to correct our mistakes when we are wrong
 - The Bible also teaches obedience by teaching a person to discipline himself, even to the point of suffering ***Hebrews 5:8 (KJV) 8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;***
 - *Instruction in Righteousness* – The Bible teaches believers the right things do, to think, and to say.
 - The Bible reveals how to live "soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" ***Titus 2:12-13 (KJV) 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;***

Keeping us from Sin

Psalm 119:11 (KJV) 11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

- When we hide the Word of God in our hearts, it’s *deterrent* from sin
- We have memorized scriptures from the Bible that we can *access* anytime

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- Scriptures don't get our heart by "accident", it's through *intentional* reading and studying of the Word
- The Word of God is not just for "emergencies only"; it's for *daily* living, too
- You need to access the Word in your heart for your daily encouragement and to minister to others

Knowing the Truth

John 17:17 (KJV) 17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

- Jesus prayed that we would be *sanctified through Thy truth* (the Bible)
- Being *sanctified* is being *set apart*, made holy, pure, righteous
- The Word of God is the *sanctifier*
- The Word of God *sanctifies* us when *believe and obey* it
- *Applying* the word of God to our lives each day has a *purifying effect* on our minds and hearts

Renewing of our Mind

Romans 12:2 (KJV) 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

- As believers, we are not to "conform" ourselves to the world
- The problem with conforming to the world is the pattern, shape, influences are always "changing"
- When we live like the world, we *lower* our standards
- In other words, we live "down" to the world's standards.
- God wants you to be *transformed* or changed
 - God wants us to undergo a radical change, a metamorphosis
- We are transformed by the *renewing* of our mind
- Our minds are renewed by the Word of God
- We renew our minds by staying in the Word of God
- When you are constantly feeding on the Word of God, you'll love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind
- Renewing your mind is applying the Word to your life ***James 1:22 (KJV) 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.***
- When we apply God's Word to our lives, we can do God's will and God is pleased with our lives