

Foundation Study #2: THE BIBLE (Part Two - Study)

What do each of these verses say about the Bible?

1) 2 Timothy 3:15-17

The Bible is the source of salvation. The Bible contains all the information a person needs to know to understand how to be in a right relationship with God (John 5:39, Luke 24:27).

The Bible was authored by God. The term “inspired” means “originating from” and means the content of Scripture originated from God. It was “God breathed.” *“Scripture is true, reliable, authoritative, permanent and powerful because it comes from God himself”*¹ Read 2 Peter 1:20,21: The inspiration of the New Testament is confirmed by Peter referring to Paul’s writings as “Scripture” (divinely authored) in 2 Peter 3:16 and the use of Old Testament quotation as New Testament writings in 1 Timothy 5:18. *“The New Testament Scriptures are equally inspired with the Old Testament Scriptures.”*²

The Bible is sufficient. The Scriptures provide instruction and guidance for every role God calls a person to fulfill. It provides all a person needs to know to be a good friend, steward, spouse, parent, child, employee, employer, servant of God. (Hebrews 13:20, 21).

2) 1 Thessalonians 2:13

The Bible is the actual word of God. It is not the word of man about God but the actual word of God about himself and man. Read 2 Peter 1:16

The Bible is empowering. The content of Scripture enables a person to continue to grow spiritually. The term “work” is where we get our word “energy.” The Bible energizes those who read it words. (1 Corinthians 1:18).

3) Revelation 22:18

The Bible is complete. The content of Scripture is finished. There is no need to look for additional revelation or new prophecy. Divine judgment awaits those who tamper with God’s revelation. (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Proverbs 30:6; Jeremiah 14:14; 23:16; 28:15; 29:31).

4) John 17:17

The Bible is truth. Richard Wurmbrand said, *“God is truth and the Bible is the truth about the truth.”* Due to its exclusive claim about being truth, everything that disagrees with the Bible is false. The truthfulness of the Bible addresses the age old question asked by Pilate, *“What is truth?”*, John 18:38. (Psalm 119:43; Revelation 19:9; 21:5; 22:6).

The Bible enables spiritual maturity. The Scriptures are an essential agent in the spiritual growth process. Not only is the content of the Bible essential for spiritual birth (2 Timothy 3:15), they are also required for spiritual growth (Colossians 3:16).

1. New Living Translation Study Bible notes

2. Paul Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology*, Moody Press, Chicago, Ill. page 128

5) Matthew 4:4

The Bible is essential. Consuming (reading, studying and applying) the content of Scripture is as essential to spiritual health as eating food is to physical health. Both are required for healthy living. We are both spiritual and physical beings. Just as going without physical food makes us physically weak, going without spiritual food makes one spiritually weak (Deuteronomy 8:3; 32:47; Joshua 1:8) and prone to error (Matthew 22:29).

6) Hebrews 4:12

The Bible is alive. Even though written thousands of years ago, the Scriptures are not “dead” but rather living. The voice of the living God resounds through the words of Scripture as they speak to our innermost thoughts, surface our deepest feelings and address our most significant needs (Luke 24:32).

7) Psalm 19:7,8

The Bible is a blessing. Reading the Bible refreshes the soul, fosters joy, provides guidance, supplies understanding and gives confidence (“hope”) to faith (Romans 15:4; Psalm 119:14, 98-100, 105).

8) Romans 1:16

The Bible is powerful. The Bible explodes away unbelief. The English term “dynamite” comes from the Greek word for power. Exposure to the truths of Scripture is an essential step in the salvation process (I Corinthians 1:18; Jeremiah 23:29). Memorizing it enables us to grow (Psalm 119:11).

9) I Corinthians 10:11

The Bible is a caution. The various Scriptural accounts of God’s judgment serve to warn those who follow in the footsteps of the disobedient (Psalm 19:11).

10) James 1:22

The Bible is meant to be applied. It is not just observation that counts, but application as well. The Bible is not meant to just be read, its is meant to be believed and obeyed. God desires that Bible readers are both knowledgeable and responsive (Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:46; Romans 2:13; James 2:17; Psalm 119: 67, 71).

Which Scripture was the most meaningful to you? Explain