***“THE BIBLE, PURPOSED FOR US”***

**INTRODUCTION:**

 1) scripture – II Cor.3:14-16…

 -a. Paul set forth that the Jews had “veiled” their hearts so that the truth of the

 gospel could not enter

 -b. but for those accepting “truth”, that veil had been removed, and they could “see”

 the truth and, by their acceptance be transformed into the image of Christ

 2) ***“the bible was not given just to increase our knowledge, but change our lives…”***

 3)1000’s of years of inspired revelation would bring:

 -a. the Christ –

 -b. the fulfillment of all truth – John 1:17

 -c. that we are no longer “tossed to and fro” for the ability to **KNOW DOES EXIST**

 -d. Eph.4:14

4) God’s word was “sent forth” to accomplish/fulfill/bring to pass - Isa.55:10-11

 -a. it will not return void

 -b. it will accomplish what it was sent to do

5) Of all the “ingredients” (work,pleasures,heath) in this world, that determines the type of

 physical life that we shall possess…

 it is the “respect” for the word of God that *determines* our spiritual eternity –

 Psalms 119:41

**THOUGHTS:**

**(I)”THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED”**

 1. Psalms 119:98

 -a. although the book binding, the paper pages, the ink are produced from man,

 what is written thereon was *“given by God”*

 -b. Gal.1:11-12 … Eph.3:3-5- ***“how that by revelation was made known unto me…”***

 -1- not handed down from previous generations

 -2-. not by rumors being spread

 -3-. not by the teachings of men of that day

 -c. I Cor.2:12-13… ***“…not in words which man’s wisdom teacheth..”***

 (could not have known without God making known)

 2. As Peter declared – II Peter 1:21

 ***“…men spake from God being moved by the Holy Spirit..”***

 3. God has spoken thru the “mouths of men”…

 -a. II Samuel 23:1-2

 -b. Jer.1:4-9… ***“behold I have put my words in your mouth…”***

 -c. Numbers 22:38…

 ***“the word that God puts in my mouth, that must I speak..”***

 4. God sent His “words” by means of the Holy Spirit “into the prophets mouths…”

 5. Acts 7:51-52…because it was the “Holy Spirit” that brought the “message”,

 those then rejecting truth are seen as ***“resisting the Holy Spirit”***

 -a. it is not the message of men

 -b. it is God that is speaking ……. I Thess.2:13

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**(II) “THE BIBLE PRODUCES FAITH”**

 1. Hebrews 11:6…

 -a. because this is a requirement, God has provided the means whereby

 we can attain this “faith”, that based upon the “word of God”

 -b. the very reason John wrote – John 20:30-31

 -b. Romans 10:17… faith is a result of the word taught

 understood

 implemented into a person’s life

 2. Thayers Greek lexicon defines “faith” as:

 -a. **conviction** –

 -b. **trust** – this combination equals bible faith

 -c. **obedience** –

3. “faith” is that which motivates us to do what many others probably

 would not do:

 -a. by faith, Noah built the ark – Heb.11:7

 -b. by faith, Abraham was about to offer his child upon an altar – Gen.22:9

 -c. by faith, Abraham left his homeland and traveled into unknown regions – Heb.11:8

 -d. by faith Moses, refused what pharaoh offered – Heb.11:24

 -d. Hebrews 11:4, the ***“negative aspect”*** of faith is set forth…

 *For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which*

 *they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.*

 -1-. they were instructed

 -2-. but it was followed thru by faith.. and they were not blessed

 -3-. “faith” *did not* motivate them to respond

 -e. there is NO SUBSTITUTE for personally looking into the scriptures- Acts 17:11

 -f. for so often people who did things based upon their “faith” were

 standing alone, or in the minority

 4. faith is the inspired word

 entering our minds/thoughts

 acknowledged as God’s will

 then obeyed

 knowing what God has promised SHALL COME TO PASS

 -a. Acts 15:7.. first Gentiles of the New Testament

 Peter would be the messenger

 that they might hear and then believe

 (can’t believe without hearing)

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**(III) “THE BIBLE GIVES GUIDANCE”** 1. II Cor.5:7…

 -a. ***“walk”*** being the progression of steps taken as we go forward

 -b. ***“by faith”,*** not led by the advice, counsel, or beliefs of men

 -c. should not be a guessing game

 -d. we are given directions, and as

 *“whatsoever is not of faith is sin”*

 -e. Caution must be exercised when we enter into “speculation”, maybe’s, might be

 -f. making sure we do not Romans … 14:22

 *condemn ourselves by the things we say “are right”*

 2. Psalms 43:3…

 ***“send your light, your truth, and let them lead me…”***

 -a. in the darkness in this world, a light came forth

 -b. and the direction is “in righteousness” – Psa. 23:3

 -c. SONG – “GUIDE ME O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH”

 ILL> as the ship at night in the storm,

 and THEN a bright beam of light from the lighthouse comes forth

 3. We NEED a **“LIGHT”** to give direction in this dark world

 -a. for we cannot follow those who “see not”

 -b. this thought is found in Matt.15:14…. ***”if the blind follow the blind***

 ***they both shall fall into the pit…”***

 4. Judges 17:6.. ***“everyone did what was right in their own eyes…”***

 -a. there is “advice” everywhere you look

 -b. “what is right” or “what is wrong” just depends on who you ask!!!

 Psalms 146:3… ***“do not trust in mortal man,***

 ***in whom there is no salvation..”***

 -c. “I think” here is what you need to do…but Pro.16:2

 -d. Pro.12:15

 5. Pro. 14:12 … Pro.3:5-6… “lean not on your own understanding(personal beliefs)…”

 6. Jer. 10:23… ***“I know that the way of man is not in himself,***

 ***it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps…”***

 ***“although we may have an inheritance waiting for us,***

 ***except we follow the right directions, we will never arrive”***

 ………. ***it will be forfeited***

 7. By examining actions/items/activities by the light of scripture,

 we can discern those things acceptable unto God – I Thess.5:21

8. let us state as found in Psalms 48:14

 ***“For this God is our God forever and ever,***

 ***He will guide us unto death…”***

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**(IV) “THE BIBLE EQUIPS US FOR OUR WORK”**

 1. II Peter 1:3…

 -a. II Corinthians 5:17 .. “a new creation in Christ Jesus…”

 2. We go forth “created new” ---

 new ways of thinking

 new ways of acting are to be brought forth

 new ways of living

 3. Ephesians 2:10 … ***“created in Christ Jesus for good works”***

 Titus 2:11 …. ***“to maintain good works..”***

 I Timothy 6:16... ***“instruct them to be rich in good works..”***

 4. II Timothy 3:16-17…

 From the scriptures, we are given “instructions” on being able to “FULFIL”

 what is required—

 for we are to teach

 reprove

 correct

 instruct in righteousness

 ***“that we may be complete, furnished***

 ***completely unto every good work”*** – II Tim.3:16-17

5. Although this “world” is not our home, we have been provided with all the

 “provisions needed” while here.

 I Tim.4:8… ***“godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds***

 ***promise for the present life, and also for the life to come…”***

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**(V) “THE BIBLE PROVIDES THE WAY OF SALVATION”**

 1. The revealed word “opens the door” of salvation,

 for without the inspired word, salvation IS NOT POSSIBLE – John 8:32

 -a. Acts 20:28… ***“word of His grace ... and give you an inheritance..”***

 2. By accepting that which God has revealed/sent forth --- salvation becomes a reality

 -a. James 1:21

 ***“receive with meekness the implanted word..”***

 -1-. with a correct attitude(willingness to learn)

 -2-. acknowledge this word is from God (inspired)

 -3-. apply it thru our life

 -4. I Peter 1:23.. “begotten by the seed which does not perish, the word of God….”

 -b. I Cor.15:1-3 … Paul set before them the “gospel”, by which they were saved

 3. Romans 1:16… ***“power of God unto salvation…”***

 4. to some, it is foolishness, but unto us(saved), it is the power of God – I Cor.1:18

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**CONCLUSION:**

1) God sent forth His word into all the world – Matt.28:18-20

 -a. this word provides all that we need “while here”

 -b. and will provide for a home in the “here after”-eternity

2) let us not neglect that which God has supplied

3) II Timothy 2:15