

Importance of Scripture

“Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.”
- Jerome - A.D. 340-420

“These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. - Moses - Deuteronomy 6:6-9

March Birthdays

2 Gonzalo Medina	15 David Lomeli	27 Marisa Perezchica
8 Drina Zamarripa	18 Buddy Cashion	30 Barrett Hoffman
9 Jessica Aguiar	24 Gabriela Marin	

March Anniversaries

2 David & Angeles Lomeli
6 Harold & Dortha Gentry
24 Chuck & Pat Limburg

(Note: if anyone is “missed” here, let Jim know)

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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The Word of God... Why Memorize Scripture?

(a series from memoryhelp@memoryverses.org)

If you have ever tried to memorize a speech or a part for a play, then you know that it is hard work to learn something so that you can repeat it word for word. Further, if you do not review it regularly, a couple of weeks after you have memorized it, you have forgotten it. Memorizing passages from the Bible is no different. It is hard work, and could take a huge portion of your time. However, if we look into the Bible to see what it teaches, then we will see that this hard work is not only worth the effort, but it is essential and it is expected of us. I have titled this article "Why Memorize Scripture", but I could also have called it "Why Study the Bible" or "Why Meditate on God's Word" or "Why Put God's Word Into Practice." All these things are vital to Christian growth.

The Bible--God's Word...Fully Inspired and Infallible

The place to start, then, would be to make sure that we know just what the Bible is and what authority it must therefore have over us. Perhaps before we proceed, you would like to read some quotes from various Creeds and Confessions regarding the nature of the Bible. The Bible is inspired by God Himself. It contains no error, teaches no error, has authority over our lives and is our only guide for truth in spiritual matters. Without the Bible, we would have no significant knowledge of God or of His will. What better thing is there to memorize than the very words of God Himself? What reason could I give for not memorizing it to the best of my ability?

The Inspiration of the Scriptures

“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”. (Hebrews 4:12)

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you

learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work". (2 Timothy 2:14-17)

"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". (2 Peter 1:20-21)

Is the Bible made up of the very words of God or is it a book of human wisdom? My answer to this question will determine my response to its teachings and will significantly influence my worldview. It is the starting point and most important doctrine of the Church and it will be a basis for the beliefs and practices of its members. All other doctrine of the Church is based on the Bible, so if the Bible is not reliable then neither is the doctrine and neither is our faith and neither is our salvation.

The Bible is not a book of human wisdom, nor is not a book which only contains the words of God, mixed in with human teachings. Rather, the Bible is entirely inspired by God Himself. This is why it says that all scripture is 'God-Breathed'. It comes from God's own mouth. This leads us to two inseparable doctrines of the church. These are the verbal inspiration of scripture and the plenary inspiration of scripture. Verbal inspiration means that the documents written by their original authors are word for word what God wanted it to say. Plenary inspiration is similar. It means that inspiration extends to the entire bible, completely covering every idea, thought and concept.

Harold Lindsell, in his book *The Battle for the Bible*, writes the following concerning the inspiration of the scriptures: Inspiration may be defined as the inward work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts and minds of chosen men who then wrote the Scriptures so that God got written what He wanted. The Bible in all of its parts constitutes the written Word of God to man. This Word is free from all error in its original autographs. It is wholly trustworthy in matters of history and doctrine. However limited may have been their knowledge, and however much they may have erred when they were not writing sacred Scripture, the authors of Scripture, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, were preserved from making factual, historical, scientific, or other errors. The Bible does not

purport to be a textbook of history, science or mathematics; yet when the writers of Scripture spoke of matters embraced in these disciplines, they did not indict error; they wrote what was true.

Calvin, in his Commentary on II Timothy 3:16 says: "Whoever then would profit by the Holy Scriptures, let him first decide this within himself, that the Law and the Prophets are not a doctrine which has been given according to the desire or will of men, but dictated by the Holy Spirit". Calvin also says: "the same reverence that we have for God is due also to the Scripture, because it has proceeded from Him alone, and has nothing of man mixed with it".

Now we must note that God worked through the people who penned the scriptures. He used the personalities, experiences, vocabulary and such of each of the authors during the process of inspiration. To say 'nothing of man was mixed with it', Calvin means that the wisdom of scripture is from the mind of God, not from the mind of man. (to be continued...)

Memorizing Scripture

Scripture memorization is a great challenge to a modern day saints. But in the old days, many of the saints of God would memorize large portions of Scripture because they were devoted to God.

One such man was John Ruskin. He lived in the nineteenth century in Great Britain and was raised by a mother who was unsparing of herself and others. One of the things she made him do was memorize Scripture. He memorized Psalms 23, 32, 90, 91, 103, 112, 119, and 139.

Later in his life when he was writing some about some of his life experiences, he wrote, *"It is strange that of all the pieces of the Bible which my mother taught me, that which cost me most to learn, and which was, to my childish mind, chiefly repulsive--the 119th Psalm--has now become of all the most precious to me in its overflowing and glorious passion of love for the Law of God."*

"How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, who seek Him with all their heart. They also do no unrighteousness; they walk in His ways. You have ordained Your precepts, that we should keep them diligently. Oh that my ways may be established to keep Your statutes!" (Psalm 119:1-5)