

"Basic Bible Truths" - Message #1
"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT ITSELF"

Introduction:

1. Let me propose a little scenario for you to think about as we begin.
 1. I'm a radio talk-show host.
 1. You are one of my listeners.
 2. You listen to me on the way home from work every day.
 3. But...one day I'm not on the air and you hear that I've been fired.
 4. So...I'm off the air...I'm history.
 2. But...one day you hear that I've written a book.
 1. So...you're interested in what's happened to me...and you go buy the book.
 2. Now...here's what I'm telling you in my new book:
 1. After I went off the air, I sat down with a yellow, legal pad and fired-off an angry letter to God.
 2. But...that's only a small part of the story.
 3. Because, guess what? God answered my letter!
 4. And God and I started having little conversations together.
 5. Furthermore, I transcribed those conversations!
 6. And God told me a lot of good stuff!
 7. And I put some of it in this book, so, you could know what God said.
 3. Here are just a couple of the things God told me:
 1. There is life on other planets.
 2. God's not interested in "marriage", because marriage is a human invention.
 3. And how about this one: GOD HASN'T GOT ANY PROHIBITIONS ON PREMARITAL SEX...
 4. OR SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE!
 5. And here's one more thing God told me in our little conversations:
"God also told me that (he, she, or it)...wrote half of the episodes of Star Trek!"
 4. But...the main thing God told me is this:
"We are all one and there is a basic unity and oneness between all people and all living things."
 5. QUESTION: **"WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME?"**
 6. Would you take me seriously?
 3. Well...that scenario is a true account of a man named Neil Donald Walsch, who was fired from his job as a radio talk-show host.
 1. He has written a trilogy of books called *"CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD"*.
 2. How have his books been received?
 3. Well...apparently thousands of people believe in Mr. Walsch's credibility...
 1. And have put their faith in his delusionary writings...
 2. Because his books have flooded the market and remained on the

New York Times "bestseller" list for months on end!

4. Now...what's amazing to me is the fact that the same people who will buy-into this kind of hallucinogenic drivel...
 1. And who will swear by this man's credibility...
 2. Will...in the same breath...totally reject the Bible as being nothing more than a fairy tale!

2. The first session in our study of Basic Bible Truths is entitled: "*WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT ITSELF*".
 1. Now...I want to emphasize that the focus in this 12-week series is on *basic* Bible truths.
 1. But...don't get the idea that because I use the word "**basic**" that these are not important truths.
 2. These truths provide the answers to some of the questions that thinking people are asking.
 3. Questions like:
 1. "*Where did I come from?*" "*Why am I here?*" "*Where am I going?*"
 2. "*How can I get in touch with reality?*"
 3. "*If there is a God...where can I find Him.*"

 2. Now...we know that the world is filled with religions and cults which tell us they have the answers to those questions.
 1. But...which one is right?
 2. They can't ALL be right...can they?
 3. Well...some people say they not only CAN...but they **ARE**!
 4. Some say we're all going up the same spiritual mountain.
 1. They say we're just going up different sides of the mountain.
 2. But...we'll all get to the top at the end of this life.
 3. So...it doesn't make any difference what you believe...as long as you're sincere.
 5. That's known as "*Universalism*" and it sounds pretty good.

By the way...that's the spiritual message that resounds throughout Mr. Walsch's books.

He wants everybody to forget what they personally believe about God and engage in some sort of a *spiritual whoopi party* and a worldwide "**group hug**"!

6. But...common sense tells us that if something is "true", then it has to have a **basis** for being true.
7. It has to have some **basis of authority** that will give it credibility.
 1. Not just someone's personal opinions.
 2. Not just someone's idea.

3. Not just someone's personal philosophy of life.
 4. Not just someone's personal vision of reality.
 5. Not just some individual's personal theory on how to find God!
 8. And yet...when it comes to the one part of man that will live forever...many people will believe anything!
3. Now...as we think about the Bible and what it claims to be...we need to recognize that when it comes to "*spirituality*" or "*religion*"...there are 3 basic views.
Atheism...Pantheism...Christianity
1. First...ATHEISM.
 1. Simply put, that is the view that God simply does not exist.
 1. The atheist says...*God is simply a figment of man's imagination.*
 2. The atheist says...*Men and women created the idea of God because they were weak and couldn't deal with life on their own.*
 2. Atheists say that since no God exists... then there is no God to speak to mankind.
 3. So...where do atheists find reality?
 4. Well...many of them find it in a religious system called "*HUMANISM*".
 5. Which means that they put their focus on man.
 1. In fact, some humanists insist that the word "man" be capitalized!
 2. They believe man can find reality in the powers of reason...
 3. Science...education...and legislation.
 6. And all of that, *they believe*, leads to self-improvement and social progress for mankind.
 7. EXAMPLE: Ted Turner of CNN is an atheist and a humanist.

According to Turner: "*Christianity is a religion for losers*" and Christ should not have bothered dying on the Cross. Turner said, "*I don't want anybody to die for me. I've had a few drinks and a few girlfriends, and if that's gonna put me in hell, then so be it.*" ¹

8. So...the first basic view of spirituality or religion is ATHEISM.
2. The second is PANTHEISM.
 1. *Atheism* finds God NOWHERE, but *Pantheism* finds God EVERYWHERE!
 2. "Pantheism" comes from two Greek words:
 1. "*Pan*" which means "all".
 2. And "*Theos*" which means "God".
 3. So...to the "pantheist"...God is all and all is God!
 4. Pantheists don't believe in a God who has an existence apart from the world...

¹Cal Thomas, "Turner's Takeover Tender," *The Washington Times*, November 6, 1989, p.

1. And who chose to create the universe...
 2. By His own power and authority.
 5. They attempt to find answers to spiritual reality *in the world around them*.
 6. While the atheist attempts to find the answer to spiritual reality *within himself*.
3. Now...our focus is on the third basic view of spiritual reality, which is called **Christianity**.
1. Biblical Christianity is based on the belief that there is a personal, supernatural God...who brought all life into existence.
 2. And...that He didn't create man and then leave him in the dark...
 1. To spend his life groping around...
 2. Wondering why he exists...
 3. And trying to discover his Creator!
 3. As Christians...we don't believe God has created us and then left us to die in silence!
 4. On the contrary (and with sufficient evidence)...Biblical Christians believe that God has chosen to speak to us!
 5. We believe that God has chosen to share His purpose for man's existence with the human race.
 1. And we don't apologize for believing that...
 2. And we can't be embarrassed to the point that we will abandon that conviction.
 6. The Biblical Christian doesn't have to answer the question "*How can I find God?*"
 7. The real question for us is "***How has God revealed Himself to us?***"
 8. IS THERE SOME CREDIBLE BASIS OF AUTHORITY...
 1. IN WHICH WE CAN PLACE OUR FAITH...
 2. OTHER THAN THE OPINIONS, THEORIES, HALLUCINATIONS, DELUSIONS, DREAMS, AND PHILOSOPHIES OF MEN???!?
4. The good news is that God has taken the initiative to reveal Himself to mankind.
1. We don't have to spend our lives seeking-out spiritual truth by climbing a mountain in Tibet...
 1. Or looking for...
 2. *Gurus, psychics, out-of-body experiences, etc.*
 2. **Why not?** BECAUSE GOD HAS ALREADY SPOKEN TO US!
 3. **How?** In two ways...
 1. One...General Revelation
 2. Two...Special Revelation
5. Now...what do we mean by GENERAL REVELATION?
1. "*General Revelation*" is seen in God's creation.

2. By looking at the world and the universe around us...
 1. We get a hint about God's existence...
 2. And we get a clue to His power!
3. Psalm 19:1 says...

"The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands."

4. The apostle Paul said basically the same thing in Romans 1:20...

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen..."

5. Now...that's known as "General Revelation".
6. But...there's a second way in which God has revealed Himself to man.

4. The second way God has revealed Himself to man is called *SPECIAL REVELATION*.

1. And that...brings us to the specific and unique **written revelation** of God!
 1. Biblical Christianity holds to the truth that God has chosen to speak to man not ONLY through His creative works.
 2. But...that He has chosen to speak to man through the message that's recorded and written down on the pages of the Bible.
 3. That's what we mean by "*Special Revelation*."

2. In this one Book...and **only** in this Book...God has given man everything he needs to know about Him...and how an individual can have a personal relationship with Him.

1. Someone has written that the Bible is...

"God preaching, God talking, God telling, God instructing, God setting before us the right way to think and speak about Him. The Scriptures are God showing us Himself: God communicating to us who He is and what He has done so that in the response of faith we may truly know Him and live our lives in fellowship with Him."²

2. Now...what are we talking about when we use that word "*revelation*"?
3. Here's the simple definition:

"A revelation is that which is revealed by God to man."

4. The word "*revelation*" means "*flinging or drawing back the veil*."
5. So..."*Special Revelation*" is God **unveiling** or **revealing** to man...
 1. By divine communication... through simple language...
 2. Truths that he could otherwise never know...
 3. About God and about himself...
 - (1) Man's origin...

²J.I. Packer, *Knowing Christianity* (Wheaton IL: Harold Shaw Publishers, 1995), p. 16

- (2) His basic problem...
 - (3) The only solution to that problem...
 - (4) And his eternal destiny!
5. And that means...that the conviction of the Biblical Christian is that the Bible is the Word of God (*a supernatural revelation*) from cover to cover!
1. We believe that the Bible is true in every detail...in the original manuscripts.
 1. And...we believe that apart from the Bible, there is NO OTHER written revelation from God.
 2. THAT'S IT! PERIOD!!
 2. Now...in this period of history, some people will look at you as though you've got two heads when you say you believe this Book is God's Word to man.
 1. ***"How could any intelligent person believe in such an antiquated... outdated...moth-eaten...moss-backed...old book??!!!"***
 1. I recently read a revue of a book by A.N. Wilson entitled "GOD'S FUNERAL".
 2. In it, he writes about certain men of the past he refers to as so-called "free thinkers".
 3. He includes among the so-called "free thinkers" men like Charles Darwin and Karl Marx
 2. And he says the question these "thinkers" faced was ***"How could one be a Christian without committing intellectual suicide?"***
 3. And...that's exactly what some people think about Biblical Christians today.
 4. They think you have assassinated your brains!
 3. ***So...WHY?*** Why DO Christians believe the Bible is God's written revelation to man?
 1. Why DO we stake our eternal destiny on it?
 2. Why DO we stand firm on what is revealed in this Book?
 3. Why DO we go to Bible studies and why DO we study it personally, in private?
 4. **Q: Is it reeeeaally true?**
 1. All of it?
 2. Are there any errors in it? *Even one?*
 3. Are there any contradictions in it?
 4. *Is there even one?*
 5. Is it really trustworthy?
 5. Because if it is not...then we are about as dumb as a rock!!!
 4. But...let me point out that it is perfectly acceptable for a "*skeptic*" to question the

authenticity of the Bible.

1. Not only is it acceptable...but we should **welcome** questions about the authenticity of the Bible!!
 2. And we should be prepared and honored to respond with answers which support our faith in this Book.
5. Now...let's look at some questions about the Bible.
1. How did we get the Bible?
 2. How was the Bible written and who wrote it?
 3. Are there errors or contradictions in the Bible?
 4. Why is it that some people believe the Bible and some don't?
 1. Is there some special requirement?
 2. Is it a matter of intellect or I.Q.?
 3. Is there some special key which will lead a person to believe the Bible?

Body:

6. To begin with...the Bible tells us about 4 PRIMARY PERSONS.
 1. God the Father.
 1. God the Son.
 2. God the Holy Spirit.
 3. And...Satan.
 2. The Bible speaks about 3 PRIMARY PLACES.
 1. Heaven
 2. Earth
 3. Hell
 3. The Bible speaks about 3 GROUPS OF PEOPLE.
 1. The Gentile
 2. The Jew
 3. The Church
 4. The Bible was written over a period of some 1600 years.
 1. It consists of 66 separate Books...
 1. 39 in the Old Testament.
 2. 27 in the New Testament.
 2. The OT deals with the events before the birth of Jesus Christ.
 3. The NT tells us about the birth of Jesus, his life, death, and resurrection...
 1. The beginning of the Church of Jesus Christ...
 2. The doctrinal teachings of the church...
 3. And the prophetic fulfillment of God's plan of the ages.
 4. The 66-Books that compose the Old and New Testaments were written by

over 40 different authors.

5. Those men were from many different walks of life...
 1. Kings
 2. Statesmen
 3. Shepherds
 4. A tax-collector
 5. Fishermen
 6. Men like Peter, James and John, whom the Bible says were *"unlearned and ignorant"...*
 7. A physician (Luke)...
 8. A man who was one of the most highly educated men of his day in Jewish Law (Paul)...
 9. And prophets like Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Zechariah.
6. Furthermore...the Bible was written in simple language for the common man. (*Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek*)
7. Now...here's a good question: *"If the Bible is a special revelation from God...how come it was written by men?"*
 1. Did God write it?
 1. Or is it simply what a lot of people say it is...just a collection of the writings of men over the centuries?
 2. Well...here's what the Bible teaches about itself...
"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness..." (II Tim. 3:16).
 3. So...the Bible itself teaches that it has been given to man by the *"inspiration"* of God.
 2. In other words...GOD INSPIRED MEN TO WRITE THE BIBLE!
 1. Now...how did God do that?
 2. Did they come under some kind of *"spell"* or go into some kind of *"trance"*?
 3. And then...just automatically and mechanically write down the words?
 4. Nope...not even close!
 3. The Greek word for "inspiration" means ***"God breathed"*** (Theopneustos)
 1. First...God chose certain men...
 1. And then...using their individual personalities...
 2. He communicated His message (*through the Holy Spirit*) to their hearts and minds...
 3. And they wrote it down.
 2. *"Inspiration"* was a special gift of the Holy Spirit...
 1. By which the writers of the Old Testament...
 2. And the writers of the New Testament...
 3. Wrote down the revelation of God as they received it.

3. All of the men who wrote the Bible did so because God chose them for that specific purpose!
 1. And...He "inspired" them so that they wouldn't make any mistakes...
 2. Whether they knew about what they were writing or not.
4. And the fact is that sometimes they didn't know the meaning of what they had written.
5. **EXAMPLE:** Daniel 12:8 tells us that Daniel wrote his prophecy and then asked the Lord what it meant:

"As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, 'My Lord, what will be the outcome of these events?' And He said, 'Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end of time.'"

6. And...the apostle Peter described how inspiration happened in II Peter 1:21:

"For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

7. That word "moved", means "to be carried along", like a boat is carried by the wind.
8. So...through the "inspiration" of the Holy Spirit...God "carried" these men along as they wrote the Bible.

8. Now...I said earlier that Christians believe that the Bible is true in every detail in the original manuscripts.

1. But...we don't have any of the original manuscripts still in existence.
 1. All we have are "copies" of the originals.
 2. Now...that brings up another legitimate question:

"IF WE DON'T HAVE ANY OF THE ORIGINAL MSS (manuscripts)...HOW DO WE KNOW THERE AREN'T ANY ERRORS IN THE COPIES WE DO HAVE?"

2. How did we get the Bible we have today?
 1. Well...to begin with...after the original MSS were written...a process of copying began.
 2. This work was done by men known as "*scribes*".
 3. And these men were extremely meticulous because they knew they were copying the actual words of God!
 4. They also had a system of checks and balances...
 1. They examined and re-examined letter after letter...over and over again...
 2. And they didn't just do that on weekends...

3. **They did it day-in and day-out for their entire lives!**

5. Now...watch this...

It is believed by the majority of Biblical Christian scholars that the Bible we have today is *practically identical* to the original MSS.

6. Now...somebody could say at this point:

"There you go! What we have is not identical...it's only practically identical! So...we can assume that there are probably some errors in it."

7. Well...let's address that.

3. To begin with, there are more than 24,000 partial and complete MSS in existence today.

1. And up until 1947, the oldest Old Testament MSS we had was dated around 900 A.D.

2. But...in 1947...a shepherd boy in Israel stumbled upon some scrolls in a cave near the Dead Sea.

3. These became known as *The Dead Sea Scrolls*.

4. They are presently on display in the city of Jerusalem.

5. Now follow this...

1. These scrolls have been dated around 150 B.C....

2. That means that the Dead Sea scrolls are about 1,000 years older than the only ones we had prior to their discovery...

3. Which are dated around 900 A.D.

6. Now follow this: among the Dead Sea scrolls, there is a copy of the MSS of the Old Testament Book of Isaiah.

7. So...now we've got this MSS which is dated 1,000 years earlier than anything we had up until 1947.

4. And...here's the critical question:

"DID THESE TWO MANUSCRIPTS...WHICH WERE COPIED 1,000 YEARS APART, AGREE WITH EACH OTHER? OR...DID WE FIND ERRORS IN THE COPYING?"

1. Well...one of the scholars who examined them was an OT scholar named Gleason Archer.

2. Here is his conclusion:

"The Isaiah manuscript proved to be word for word identical with our standard Hebrew Bible in more than 95% of the text."

3. Now, what's the skeptic going to say?

"That proves that 5% of the Bible must be wrong and so, there must be errors in the copy of the Bible we have today!"

4. But...wait a minute...because Dr. Archer had more to say:

"The 5% variation consisted chiefly of obvious slips of the pen and variations in spelling."

5. Now listen carefully...

1. A misspelled word or an inverted word order...

2. Has nothing to do with the preservation of the TRUTH of the text!

6. And I think that's a pretty good argument for believing that: GOD HAS PRESERVED HIS WORD FOR US DOWN THROUGH THE AGES

AND IT WILL BE PRESERVED FOREVER!

9. Now, lastly...*"Why is it that some people believe the Bible and some people don't?"*
1. Does it have anything to do with intelligence or a person's I.Q.?
 1. Well...there are a lot of people with high I.Q.s who ***do*** believe the Bible is God's Word.
 2. But...there are also many people with high I.Q.s who ***don't*** believe the Bible is God's Word.
 3. The same goes for people with low I.Q.s.
 1. Many believe the Bible...
 2. Many don't believe the Bible.
 4. **CONCLUSION**: Whether a person believes the Bible or not, has nothing to do with individual intelligence.
 2. **Secondly**...believing or not believing the Bible has nothing to do with any special, secret information.
 1. All of the information in the Bible is contained within the pages between Genesis 1:1 and Revelation 22:21.
 2. That's all there is and in this country it's available to everyone.
- *I found 3 copies of the Bible in my hotel room in Jamu, India!**
3. There is no other information necessary in order to believe the Bible.
 4. **QUESTION**: If believing the Bible doesn't depend on a person's intellect or any information outside the Bible...what DOES it depend on?
10. In order to answer that, we have to look at another important word.

1. We've talked about REVELATION and INSPIRATION...now let's talk about *ILLUMINATION*.
 1. What's "*illumination*"?
 2. Illumination is the work of the Holy Spirit in the Christian...
 1. By which he can have his spiritual understanding opened...
 2. So he can understand the Bible.
 3. Listen to what Jesus said in John 16:12-15...

12 *"I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.*

13 *"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.*

14 *"He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you.*

15 *"All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine, and will disclose it to you."*

2. Now...Jesus is talking here about believers.
 1. The man who is not a believer will never be able to understand the Bible.
 2. That's exactly what the apostle Paul says in I Cor. 2:11-13...

11 *"For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.*

12 *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God,*

13 *which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words."*

3. Paul says the only way a man can recognize spiritual truth is if the Holy Spirit reveals it to him.
4. Because ONLY the **Holy Spirit** can reveal spiritual truth.
5. Listen to the next verse in I Cor. 2...

1 Cor 2:14

14 *"But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised."*

6. So...why doesn't a non-Christian understand spiritual truth?
 1. Because he's still a "natural" man.
 2. That means...he's spiritually dead.
7. But...when a man becomes a Christian, he is given spiritual life and the Holy Spirit comes to reside within him!
8. Look at Ephesians 2:1-5...

1 *"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,*

2 *in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*

3 *Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*

4 *But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,*

5 *even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)..."*

9. When a man puts his faith in Jesus Christ, God makes him a new person (*II Cor. 5:17*).
 1. And then...the Holy Spirit reveals to his heart that this Book is true...
 2. And that it is composed of the very thoughts and words of God.
10. So...the Bible is not believed by intellect or human wisdom...IT IS BELIEVED BY **FAITH!**

3. Now...that's not to say there's not other evidence for believing the Bible is true. There is...

1. Archeological evidence.
2. Scientific evidence.

3. Supernatural evidence.
4. Prophetic evidence.
 1. There are some 2,000 prophecies in the Bible.
 2. At least 500 of them apply to specific events in the life of Jesus Christ.
 - (1) His virgin birth.
 - (2) His place of birth.
 - (3) His crucifixion.
 - (4) Etc.
 3. Bible prophecy touches all areas of Jesus' life, ministry, death, resurrection, and Return in glory!
 4. And it is foretold hundreds of years before His birth!
5. And all of those things simply undergird the FAITH that I have placed in the Word of God!

Conclusion:

11. At the present time, Christians are being persecuted, tortured, sold into slavery, and put to death, in record numbers around the world!
 1. A few months ago, I received information indicating that every few minutes a Christian dies somewhere in the world...for his/her faith.
 1. I've met persecuted Christians in other lands...especially India.
 2. People who've been beaten and robbed and imprisoned.
 3. People whose loved-ones have been killed!
 4. **WHY?** Simply because they believed that this Book is the Word of God.
 2. I read recently of a young woman in Asia who was kidnapped, and whose life was being threatened, simply because she had put her faith in Jesus Christ.
 1. Her captors told her that there was only one thing she could do to be released.
 2. Just one, simple thing.
 3. And if she cooperated, she would be free to go.
 4. *"Only one thing and you will go free"*, they told her.
 5. What was that one simple thing?
 6. *"All you have to do"*, they told her, *"is spit on your Bible."*
 7. What would you have done?
 8. **What did she do?**
 9. Well...if you are a Christian, you can ask her when you get to heaven.
 10. **SHE'S ALREADY THERE!**

*For further study on what the Bible teaches about itself, read Psalm 19:7-11 and Psalm 119.

Psalm 119 is a Psalm which praises God for His written Word, like no other place found in the Bible.

In this Psalm, God's Word is referred to as *"law"*, *"testimonies"*, *"precepts"* *"statutes"*, *"commandments"* and *"words"*. Every single one of the 176 verses in this Psalm, except 4 (90, 121, 122, and 132), refer to God's Word.

Basic Bible Truths - Lesson #1
"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT ITSELF"

1. (John 17:17) What did Jesus say about God's Word? _____
2. (John 10:35) Jesus affirmed that there is absolutely no error in the Bible by saying, "...*the Scripture* _____"
3. (I Thessalonians 2:13) The believers in Thessalonica heard Paul preach, and they received the word "...*not as the word of _____, but for what it really is, the _____ of God.*"
4. According to Romans 10:17, what must we hear in order to have faith? _____
5. (I Peter 1:23) We are _____ through the living and abiding _____ of God.
6. I Peter 1:25 tells us what about the Word of God? _____
7. According to I Peter 2:2 what should we desire in order to grow spiritually? _____
8. When Paul preached to the Bereans, "...*they received the word with great eagerness, examining the _____ daily to see whether these things were so.*" (Acts 17:11)
9. According to Acts 20:32, what is able to build us up in spiritual knowledge? _____
10. (II Timothy 3:15) The Bible "...*is able to give us the _____ that leads to salvation through _____ which is in Jesus Christ.*"
11. (II Timothy 3:16) We know that God caused men to write the exact words He wanted written because the first part of this verse says, "..._____..."
12. The same verse tells us 4 things for which the Bible is profitable: (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____ (4) _____
13. II Peter 1:21 tells us that we know the Scriptures came from God because, "...*men moved by the _____ spoke from _____.*"
14. What is the Word of God called in Ephesians 6:17? _____
15. In I Corinthians 15:3-4, the Apostle Paul gave three facts about the Gospel he preached.

What three things did he say happened according to the Scriptures? (1) _____,
(2) _____, (3) _____.

16. In Romans 4:3, when the Apostle Paul taught that Abraham was considered righteous by faith, what did he use as the proof of that statement? "...what does _____
_____?"

17. (Ephesians 1:13) Paul tells the Ephesians that they have heard the message of what?
_____.

18. (Romans 15:4) "*For whatever was written in earlier times (The Old Testament) was written for our _____, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have _____.*"

19. In the New Testament, the Word of God is given several different names. Some of these are:

- Philippians 2:16 _____
- Acts 13:26 _____
- Colossians 3:16 _____
- II Corinthians 5:19 _____

20. The 3 basic views of spirituality or religion are: 1) _____
2) _____ 3) _____ (p. 3)

21. God has spoken to man in 2 ways. This is called General Revelation and _____ Revelation. (p. 4)

22. General Revelation is seen in God's _____. (p. 4)

23. Special Revelation is the specific and unique _____ revelation of God. (p. 5)

24. The Bible tells us about 4 primary persons: (p. 6)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

3 primary places: (p. 7)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

3 groups of people: (p. 7)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

25. The Bible was written over a period of some _____ years, and consists of _____ Books, _____ in the Old Testament and _____ in the New Testament. (p. 7)

26. The Bible is written in 3 languages: 1) _____ 2) _____ and 3) _____. (p. 8)

27. The Greek word for "inspiration" means _____. (p. 8)

28. "Illumination" is:

(p. 10)

Have you invited Christ into your life to be your Savior? () Yes () No

Which of the following are you depending upon for your salvation?

- () Church Membership
- () Baptism
- () Keeping the 10 Commandments
- () Doing good works
- () Faith in Christ alone

Memory Verse: Psalm 119:11

"Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee."

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