

UNIT 3: THE RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE – PART 1

LESSON 1 – What is the Bible?



Introduction

- What we want to learn:
 - Where the Bible fits into the Christian life
 - Why it's important to our understanding of God



Introduction

- What we want to do with what we learn:
 - To understand how God's Word changes us
 - To make God's Word a central piece in our lives



Scripture Focus

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Acts 2:38-39
- Hebrews 4:12-13
- Matthew 5:17-18



Anchor Statement

I believe that the Bible consists of the Old Testament (39 books) and the New Testament (27 books). These books combined are what the Church is convicted to uphold as God-breathed and profitable for teaching.



OVERVIEW



Overview

- Without a proper understanding of the Christian Bible as the Word of God, these rich accounts of God are no more than really great stories from long ago.



Context and Details

Acts

Author: Luke

Time frame: ~70-80 AD

Purpose: it tells the story of the early church



Context and Details

Hebrews

Author: Paul? Barnabas? Apollos?

Time frame: before 70 AD

Purpose: written to Jewish converts to Christianity and challenge them to hold fast to their newfound faith



Context and Details

1, 2 Timothy

Author: Paul

Time frame: 1 – 64-65 AD

2 – ~67 AD

Purpose: Paul passing along his final words to Timothy



THE SETTING



The Setting

- Paul wants Timothy to understand the place and power of God's Word before he calls him to preach the Word to others.



THE MAIN POINT



The Main Point

- The Bible contains the very words of God to man.
- It is living and active, and it causes a change in the lives of those who read it.



THE LEAD IN



Goal

To understand what Scripture is,
and why it is important and
necessary in our walk with God.



Question

- What are some of the bestselling books of all time?



Bestselling Books Based on Sales

1. **Don Quixote**
2. **A Tale of Two Cities**
3. **The Lord of the Rings**
4. **The Little Prince**
5. **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**
6. **And Then There Were None**
7. **The Dream of the Red Chamber**
8. **The Hobbit**
9. **She: A History of Adventure**
10. **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**



The Bible

- According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the Christian Bible is the bestselling book of all time.



Questions

- **Why do you think that the Bible world be the bestselling book of all time?**
- **How many copies of the Bible do you think are in your house?**
- **How many copies of the Bible are in our church?**



God's Word

- It is a living book that changes people
- It isn't just a collection of stories or poems
- It is God's story and a direct line of communication with Him



THE MAIN EVENT



Goal

- To understand the place of the Bible in Christian life



Question

- **What makes the Bible different from all other books on the bestseller list?**



2 Timothy 3:16-17

- It's origin
- Scripture comes from the very breath of God
- It's not just man's words about God but God's words to man



Question

- **What does it mean that the Bible was “God-breathed?”**



2 Timothy 3:16-17

- How does God's Word "reproof" or "correct" us?



God's Word

- The Bible is designed to train us for righteous living
- We are incapable of obtaining righteousness on our own
- By accepting Jesus' salvation we can receive the Holy Spirit



Acts 2:38-39

- The Holy Spirit leads us to read with new eyes
- We see areas where we need to grow more clearly
- God's Word changes us by helping us refocus our minds and our lives to look more like God



Hebrews 4:12-13

- What does it mean that God's Word is living and active?
- Why do we have a "New" Testament and an "Old" Testament?



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Matthew 5:17-18

- Jesus upholds the entirety of the Law (the Old Testament)
- The Law is fulfilled in Him
- All Scripture ultimately points us to Who God is and What He has done for us



THE LAST WORD



Exercise

REMOVE	ADD



Next Week

- We will dive deeper into:
 - Understanding the books of the Bible
 - Where they came from
 - Which books came to be part of our Bible



