

## **LESSON 2**

### **GREAT BIBLE THEMES**

#### **A FURTHER STUDY OF WHAT THE BIBLE CLAIMS**

**A SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING OUR STUDY:** In each lesson we make a special effort to include references to many sections of the Bible. This is done to encourage you to become familiar with the entire Bible. Please notice also that words in each verse we quote that have the most significance in our discussion are the words that you write in the blanks provided.

In our first lesson we noticed the abundance of material, from the Bible itself, that shows that the inspired writers claimed to be speaking the message of God in their writings. This claim is further established by many different approaches to a study of the inspiration of the Bible. For our purpose today, however, we want to notice several other questions regarding what the Bible claims for itself. After you have completed this lesson, come back and study the answers to the following questions.

1. Can I expect to find all the truth contained in the Word of God on any one topic in one passage?
2. In this respect, how would you contrast the material in the Bible with the material in an encyclopedia or other information source?

3. From your answers to questions 2 and 3, give a good reason for always being open-minded and ready to receive additional truth from the Word of God.
4. Does the Bible claim that it contains all the truth that we need, or was it only the beginning of revealed truth to which we need to add man's wisdom, or special interpretations, or later revelations?
5. What reasons can you give for studying the Word of God?

## **LET US LOOK TO THE BIBLE FOR OUR ANSWERS**

We understand that every scripture is given by inspiration of God, therefore, we know that every verse is true. But does this mean that the verse contains all the truth we have on one topic we may be considering? The following words of Isaiah may be taken as a description of the nature of the Word of God. See Isaiah 28:13. "But the Word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line;

\_\_\_\_\_ /  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."

The words you have filled in may be taken as a description of the Bible. In this respect the arrangement of the material in the Bible is not like the material in an encyclopedia. In the latter, all the known information on any topic has been assembled together in one place, but in the Bible it is "here a little and there a little." Could we, for example, go to our Bibles and there find assembled in one place all that it teaches on the subject of prayer? Of course, we would not expect this, but would expect to find the teaching on this topic scattered throughout the Bible; here a little and there a little. (We should note at this point that we are borrowing the words of

Isaiah to illustrate the fact that all of God’s teaching on any one subject is not found in one verse.)

Let us also notice several things that illustrate the above discussion. Suppose we look to Matthew 21:22. Christ said, “And \_\_\_\_\_, whatsoever ye shall \_\_\_\_\_/ believing, \_\_\_\_\_.”

If we understand the nature of the Bible we will expect to find additional passages which help explain its teaching on the subject of prayer. In this above reference the only condition for receiving what we ask for is \_\_\_\_\_. Two other conditions are given in John 15:7. “If \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” Read James 4:3 to see another verse which is just as true as all others, but which gives some additional teaching on the subject of the prayer that God hears and answers. “Ye ask, and receive not, because \_\_\_\_\_, that ye may \_\_\_\_\_.” This just means that God is not interested in answering purely selfish prayers. This idea was not mentioned in the other references.

You recognize that we have a great deal of teaching throughout the entire Bible on this subject. Let us consider one more today. Before Jesus was crucified he went earnestly to God in prayer. He met all conditions for acceptable prayer mentioned in the verses we have studied, but he recognized one other condition. Notice it in Matthew 26:39, “And he went a little farther, and fell

on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.” Thus we see that Christ recognized that prayer should be asked according to the will of God.

Please keep in mind that these verses on prayer are given as an illustration of the nature of God’s Word, showing that we do not find the entire teaching of the Bible on any subject assembled in one place as we expect to find in an encyclopedia, but that we find, “here a little, and there a little.” This further emphasizes the fact that every passage in the Bible needs to be understood in the light of all other passages on the same subject.

Do you see that this gives us a very important reason for maintaining an open-minded attitude toward our own understanding of the Bible? Could we, for example, take only one of the verses above and close our minds to the others? Or could we take all those referred to in today’s lesson and say that we now have the complete teaching of the Word of God on the subject of prayer? The answers to these questions are evident if we understand the nature of the Bible. We are sure that you would not understand from this discussion that we cannot have definite convictions regarding what the Bible teaches, but on the contrary, we should have our own convictions based directly upon a “thus said the Lord.” These convictions we may hold as dear and sacred between each of us and our Father in heaven, but we should never close our eyes to additional truth coming from God’s Word.

The fact that the Holy Spirit had a restraining influence upon the writers of the books of the Bible is clearly set forth by their

brevity. For example, in our libraries today, we have many large volumes about the lives of great leaders. We have large sets of books giving the lives of the outstanding presidents of the United States, but four different men, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, have each given us a life of Christ, in a very few pages in our Bibles. These writers were Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Notice what one of these writers said about his book. John 20:30-31. "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ : But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ . Notice also John 21:25, "And there are also many \_\_\_\_\_, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that

\_\_\_\_\_. Thus we see that the Holy Spirit has guided in selecting the material we have in the Bible and has not attempted to give us everything that could be written. But our question now is this: Does the Bible claim to contain everything that we need today in order to live a complete life? In the first place, let us notice that the inspired apostles made every effort to preach a complete gospel to those who heard and, as Paul expressed it, to thus be free of their guilt because they had proclaimed a complete gospel. Notice Acts 20:26-27, Wherefore I take you to record this day, that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. For I have \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_”

\_\_\_\_\_.

Let us now notice 2 Peter 1:3 to see that things God has given us  
 “According as his \_\_\_\_\_ hath  
 given unto us \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and  
 virtue.” Notice the statement of the completeness of the  
 scriptures as set forth in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. “All scripture is  
 given by \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and is profitable  
 for \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_, for  
 \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_:  
 That the man of God may be \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_.” Let us notice this carefully. What was given  
 to thoroughly or completely furnish us to all good works?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ What has been given that is profitable for  
 doctrine (or teaching)? \_\_\_\_\_ For reproof,  
 correction, and instruction in righteousness? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yes, the answer to each of the three questions is the same.

We arrive at the same conclusion by noticing such verses as  
 Revelation 22:18-19, “For I testify unto every man that heareth  
 the words of the prophecy of this book, If \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, God shall \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

that are written in this book: And if \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ of this prophecy, God shall  
 \_\_\_\_\_ his part out of the book of  
 life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are  
 written in this book." Paul had the same attitude and pronounced  
 a curse upon any who would pervert (or change) his God given  
 message in any way. Galations 1:8, "But though we, or an angel  
 from heaven, preach \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ unto you than that which we have preached  
 unto you, \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_."

In each of the references below you will find at least one reason  
 for studying the Word of God.

Psalms 119:11 "Thy \_\_\_\_\_ have I \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_, that I  
 might not \_\_\_\_\_."

Psalm 119:160 "Thy \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ from the beginning: and every one of thy  
 \_\_\_\_\_ judgments \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_."

Jeremiah 15:16 "Thy words were found, and I did eat them: and  
 thy \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_." (May each of  
 us find such joy in our study of the Word of God.)

Acts 20:32 "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the \_\_\_\_\_, which is able to \_\_\_\_\_, and to give you an \_\_\_\_\_ among \_\_\_\_\_."

John 12:48 Jesus said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not \_\_\_\_\_, hath one that judgeth him: the \_\_\_\_\_, the same shall \_\_\_\_\_."

James 1:21 "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness \_\_\_\_\_, which is able \_\_\_\_\_."

You will enjoy reading Psalms 19. Notice especially verses 10 and 11 which show how desirable it is to know the Word of God. "More to be desired are they (the laws of the Lord) than \_\_\_\_\_, yea, than \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_ also than \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_. Moreover \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_ and in keeping of them \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: Have you gone over this lesson hurriedly? You will not be able to read these verses as you would an article in the newspaper, but you need to read slowly and thoughtfully. After you have organized your own thinking about the questions asked

on the first page, write your own conclusion. The answer to these questions on page 1 are for your own study, and you need not mail them to us. A little more time and thoughtfulness will enable you to remember the things taught in each lesson.

## TEST

1. John stated that the purpose of his gospel was: (a) to set forth the plan of salvation, (b) that the world might believe that Jesus was the Christ, (c) to point out the mistakes in the gospels according to Matthew, Mark and Luke. \_\_\_\_\_
2. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 we have a list of things for which the inspired writings are profitable. Which one of the following is not mentioned?: (a) to prove our religious theories, (b) to reprove us, (c) to instruct us in righteousness, (d) to give us God's doctrine. \_\_\_\_\_
3. John said in Revelation that no harm would be done if any man took away or added unto the words of the book of Revelation. (True or False) \_\_\_\_\_
4. All teaching in the Bible on one subject is found in one place as in an encyclopedia. (True or False) \_\_\_\_\_
5. The apostle Paul claims to have declared; (a) the whole counsel of God, (b) part of the counsel of God, (c) none of the counsel of God. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Could an angel from heaven preach any other gospel than Paul preached and receive sanction from God? (Yes or No) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Jesus taught that man would be judged by: (a) his conscience, (b) his sincerity, (c) any religious instruction, (d) the words of Christ. \_\_\_\_\_

8. In our lesson today we noticed (a) 15, (b) 4, (c) 7, (d) 10 reasons for studying the Word of God. \_\_\_\_\_

9. The Holy Spirit did not allow the writers of the Bible to write everything they could have written about Christ. (True or False)  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Does the Bible claim to be the complete will of God to man? (Yes or No) \_\_\_\_\_

**Score:** Ten for each correct answer \_\_\_\_\_

Correct answers to questions in lesson number 1:

1. (c)
2. (b)
3. (false)
4. (d)
5. (c)
6. (false)
7. (a)
8. (d)
9. (a)
10. (yes)