



Go for God!

“AWANA – A WORKMAN NOT ASHAMED!”

***Be diligent to present yourself approved to God,
a worker who does not need to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.***

2 Timothy 2:15

- **The Word of God:** The Bible is God’s revelation of Himself to man in His creation. The Bible forms one continuous story; the story of humanity in relation to God. From the beginning to the end, the Bible has one great theme: **THE PERSON & WORK OF JESUS CHRIST!**

- **Discover the PROMISES of God’s Word in Joshua Chapter 1** - If you read it and **do it** God says that He will **prosper** your ways and give good **success**!

> #1 - The Bible is Inspired By GOD!

- Someone once said that the ***Bible*** is ***Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth***. Paul wrote to Timothy the young Pastor and said, **2 Timothy 3:16-17** - *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine* (to teach us what is **right**), *for reproof* (to teach us what is **not** right), *for correction* (to teach us how to **get** right), *for instruction in righteousness* (to teach us how to **stay** right), *that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

- **Charles Spurgeon once said**, “The Bible does not need to be defended any more than a caged lion needs to be defended. All we need to do is let it out of its cage, and it will defend itself.”

- **The Word *Bible*** (Gr. *Biblia* is “books” from *biblos* - ***written document***) refers to a number of books considered sacred and canonical among Christians.

- Scripture is declared to be **infallible** in the sense of being unfailingly **accurate**.

- Scripture is also declared to be **inerrant**, meaning that the Bible does not contain any error as statement of **fact**.

- Scripture is **authoritative**, delivered from **God**.

- Scripture is **all sufficient**, for every aspect of **life and eternity!**

- **Peter encourages us in 2 Peter 1:16-21**- *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

- **Jesus confirmed the authenticity of the Old Testament when He said**, “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever **does and teaches** them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:17-20)

- **What about the New Testament? In John 1:1 we are told**, “In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was **God**.” In the New Testament especially, Jesus Christ is revealed as the Incarnate Word (the **personification** of the Word), the physical embodiment of what God is, and a revelation of the nature and being of God. In Christ are revealed all the attributes that belong to God,

especially His wisdom, power, holiness, and love. Jesus Christ is the Word, the expression of what God is. Through Jesus Christ, men can come to know God in a more accurate and detailed way than in any other means of divine revelation.

> #2 *The Bible: Its History is AUTHENTIC!*

~ **Food for thought:** The *New Testament* is **contained** in the Old Testament, and the *Old Testament* is **explained** in the New Testament.

- The Bible was written from 1600BC to 100AD.
- The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic; the New Testament was written in Greek, and was divided into chapters and verses later in history to facilitate reading and reference.
- The Bible consists of 66 books: 39 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament, consisting of 40 different authors, spanning 4000 years of history. These writers came from different classes of people, from all walks of life: kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, doctors, statesman, scholars, poets, farmers, and prisoners. The Bible is filled with history, poetry & prophecy.
- The Old Testament was arranged by the Jews into three groupings: The Law, the Prophets, and The Writings.
- The Catholic Bible adds a section known as the *Apocrypha*, which means HIDDEN or CONCEALED. Most of the Apocryphal books were written in what is known as the 400 years of silence (from *Malachi to John the Baptist*). The *Apocrypha* does not meet the test of “CANON” an officially accepted list of books.

> The “*test of canon*” is:

- (1) Is it **Authoritative**? Did it come from the hand of God? (Does this book come with a divine “thus saith the LORD”?)
- (2) Is it **Prophetic**? Was it written by a man of God?
- (3) Is it **if**? The fathers had a policy of “if in doubt throw it out!” This enhanced their validity of discernment of canonical books.
- (4) Is it **Authentic**? Did it come with the life-transforming power of God?
- (5) Was it **received, collected, read and used** – was it accepted by the people of God?¹

> **There are four reasons why the *Apocrypha* is not canonical:**

- (1) They abound in historical and geographical inaccuracies and anachronisms.
- (2) They teach doctrines which are false and foster practices which are at variance with inspired Scripture (Such as the doctrine concerning “purgatory.”)
- (3) They resort to literary types and display an artificiality of subject matter and styling out of keeping with inspired Scripture.
- (4) They lack the distinctive elements which give the genuine Scripture their divine character, such as prophetic power and poetic and religious feeling.²

> #3 – *We Must Love, Learn and Live the WORD OF GOD!*

- **Peter’s prescription for spiritual maturity:**

#1 - 1 Peter 1:23 - *having been **born again**, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the **word of God** which lives and abides forever,*

#2 - 1 Peter 2:2-3 - *as newborn babes, **desire the pure milk of the word**, that you may **grow** thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is **gracious**.*

#3 - 2 Peter 3:18 - *but **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**.*

- **Paul exhorts us in Colossians 2:6-7**- *As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the **faith**, as you have been **taught**, abounding in it with thanksgiving.*

¹ Evidence That Demands a Verdict, p.29, Josh McDowell

² Unger’s Bible Dictionary

Ephesians 4:14-15 - *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the **truth** in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ.*

Warren Wiersbe, the Bible commentator writes, “The Word of God: Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be right.”

> #4 - The Value of God’s Word! (10 points)

- Ten great promises for your life through the Word of God:

#1 - God’s Word produces God’s WILL! - **Isaiah 55:11** - *So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

#2 - His Word brings FREEDOM! - **John 8:31-32** - *"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

#3 - The Word is our GUIDE! - **Psalm 119:105** - *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

#4 - The Word is our DAILY SUSTENANCE! - **1 Peter 2:2** - *as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,*

#5 - The Word CONVICTS OUR LIFE! - **Hebrews 4:12** - *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart*

#6 - The Word is our WEAPON against the devil! - **Ephesians 6:17** - *the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

#7 - His Word brings ANSWERS TO PRAYER! - **John 15:7** - *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.*

#8 - His Word SANCTIFIES us! - **John 17:17-18** - *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your Word is truth.*

#9 - The Word produces SALVATION! - **Acts 4:4** - *However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.*

#10 - His Word produces God’s LOVE! - **1 John 2:5** - *But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him*

> Conclusion: Let’s read Psalm 1

Psalm 19:7-11

*The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul;
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
Yea, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
Moreover by them Your servant is warned,
And in keeping them there is **great reward**.*