

## IS THE BIBLE IMPORTANT?

Guidelines I

===

~ Welcome to the Spiritual Safari. My name is Andrew Hunt. The title of this report is also the question we are going to answer in it, "is the Bible important?" This is the first guideline in a series of eight guidelines that we will examine before we reach Genesis, dealing with the topics of studying the Bible, history and culture - and other things. First, let us pray:

***"... Heavenly Father, open Thou our eyes that we may behold wondrous things out of Thy law ~***

... Our first report will deal with the importance of the Holy Bible itself. Today, the Bible is the most maligned book in mankind's vast library of historical literature. Atheists comment about it in abject ignorance. Amongst Christians, it's the best-selling book that nobody reads – and, of those who read it - even fewer understand it – and out of those few who do understand it, even fewer put God's commandments and precepts into practice in their daily lives.

The Bible has been and is being attacked constantly and relentlessly throughout its existence, and increasingly so in this present day. Yet it has and continues to minister to billions of people throughout the ages. All around the world for several thousands of years God has been making His Personal message of salvation known to mankind through His Word. So, I ask you: does a book with an impact of this magnitude upon the earth deserve an intelligent consideration before being dismissed out of hand by one who considers themselves likewise?

I suppose the subtitle for this introductory safari report series could be taken from the title of a sermon at a Dallas Church many years ago: "The Bible as It Is for Men as They Are"! That is an extraordinary statement to me and nicely sums up my written mission: to further get out the Word of God. The only goal of this Spiritual Safari is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

---

Is the Bible Important?

We do that by seeking Him on every page of Scripture; which, in turn, causes us to continually grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior and Lord – our Holy High Priest – the Blessed Hope of the world – and then I wrote down the total Word of God as it had been revealed to me by the Holy Spirit – so He may now present it to men as they are.

Alright, with that brief introduction out of the way, I am now going to attempt to present the entire Word of God to the entire world in the sound doctrine of the apostles. I believe that the entire Bible is the Word of God and that it should be taught that way - in its entirety – not just some of it. Not just the familiar books and the stuff we like to hear. We're not going to lift out fractured verses from disconnected passages and form some modernized wild and weird theology in this expedition, friends; because it's just too easy to settle for that. So, let's open with a little poem based on the comments found in second Kings chapter twenty-three....

~ **And He Read All the Words of the Book** ~

*I supposed I had learned my Bible by  
~ Reading piecemeal hit or miss  
Now a bit of John or Matthew  
~ Or here a bit of Genesis  
Certain chapters of Isaiah  
~ Certain psalms like the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
12<sup>th</sup> of Romans; 1<sup>st</sup> of Proverbs  
~ yeah, I thought I knew the Word  
but I found a thorough reading was quite a  
~ different thing to do  
and I found the way unfamiliar as  
~ I read the Bible through  
If you like to play in the Bible and  
~ Dip and dabble there  
Just before you kneel and yawn your  
~ way through hurried, scattered prayer  
you who treat the jewels of writing  
~ as you treat no other book  
with your paragraphs disjointed and*

**Is the Bible Important?**

---

*~ just taking an impatient look  
try a worthier procedure  
~ a broad and steady view  
you will kneel in the very rapture  
~ when you're through  
reading your Bible through*

...Today, I invite you to study the Word of God - prepared just for you in your own personal Spiritual Safari, friends. If the Bible is the Word of God, then nothing else matters. If the Bible is not the Word of God, then nothing matters. This so-called safari considers the entire Bible; from Genesis chapter one verse one through the end of Revelation – all 66 books; every chapter. Every verse. It took an estimated 4.4 million written words to complete the written safari collection – and whether or not the Lord spares my life to complete this calling, I am confident that you will be a better man or a better woman for studying the Bible, either way. I will try to make this the most thrilling experience you have ever had with Bible study; but I make no promises in that connection. What I can promise is that I sure will try - because I am speaking to you, personally, and only you – my beloved friend.

^ ^ ^ ^

I also want to pass along some outstanding quotations from other men and women in history concerning the Bible. This is a beautiful book that has, in turn, influenced the great men and women of this world throughout the ages. Believers and non-believers alike have been greatly affected in their personal lives by the Scriptures and their teachings.

My personal estimation is that there are no really outstanding men of God today because man has abandoned the Bible wholesale - and rejects an educated study of it as a necessity. Every man is trying to spiritually outdo the next man with intellectual capabilities. The result is a frightening collection of hateful bickering over stuff that is beside the point and can never be proven or disproven anyways; all being amassed but consisting of a bunch of nothing - nothing except personal opinion and subjective theory, that is.

Is the Bible Important?

---

The hatred and bitterness exhibited by some of the so-called great men in the world today is magnified by their contempt for and utter willful ignorance of the Bible. However, we can all thank God that He has preserved His Word through certain men and women throughout the ages of world history who, while they could never be classified as Christians, they did have a reverent respect for God and His Word. Let's take a look at a few of those people.

Queen Victoria:.... an African prince came to England to be presented to Her Majesty. This prince made a simple inquiry, "What is the secret to England's greatness"? The Queen turned and retrieved a beautifully bound Bible and handed it to the prince and said, "This is the secret of England's greatness". Well, England's world position today - as they have become not only a second-rate but really a third-rate nation - is a direct reflection of them turning their back on the True and Living God - the Lord Jesus Christ - and getting away from the Word of God in their personal, social and religious life. A collective society that rejects Christ Jesus as a matter of general principle will fail and fall. England was very great when they had the Word of God. They aren't great today. See, it was known throughout the world that England was due for their bloodbath just before World War II - French revolutionary style - but John Wesley was raised up and revival came to England at that time.

Alright, most American presidents have had some interesting things to say about the Bible as the Word of God, too. For those who erroneously believe that America was not founded on Biblical principles by men who, although not necessarily "Christians," - most were Deists - but who had a definite healthy respect for the Word of God - you may be sure that you are entirely wrong; and the following will do you well to learn....

George Washington, " ....*"It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible...."*

President Adams I, " .... *"I've examined all [of scripture] as well as all my very narrow sphere [regarding an understanding of the Bible] that my straightened means and my busy life would allow. The result is [the*

*Is the Bible Important?*

---

*conclusion] that the Bible is the best book in the world. It contains more of my philosophy than is in all of the libraries I have ever seen. Such parts, as I cannot reconcile to my own [personal philosophy], I withhold judgement of until further investigation”!*

President Adams II, “... “I speak as a man of the world; to men of the world and I urge you all to search the scriptures. The Bible is the book to be read at all times and throughout all ages; and in all conditions of human life. Not to be scanned through once or twice and thrown aside as with being done with it. But it is to be read in small portions of just one or two chapters each day; but never to be omitted from ones daily schedule except for as excused by God Himself”.

I would challenge any scholar or intellectual who owns a pencil to top those statements. One of the critical building blocks that have always made these United States great has been the president by which we have been governed. These early presidents knew how to solve the problems on their street. What changed is that we, collectively - as a society – traded-out our most precious resource – the truth of the Word of God – for lies. The farther away from God that we get the more complicated our problems become for us. There are men of position and authority in our land who state openly there is no solution to some of our current problems. I believe there *is* a solution – but only One. I think we had better get back to it.

President Woodrow Wilson was the son of a preacher. He was an idealist and a post-millennialist - two inseparable features, by the way - who never really had a very good grip on reality - but that didn’t stop him from being president of Princeton University before becoming president of the United States. Now, I, Andrew Curtis Hunt, was brought up in a southern church the same way Wilson was, basically; and I know that idealism is easily engrained in ones thinking. Idealism ignores and, ultimately, forgets the great truth of Scripture that says man today is a sinner and is totally depraved. Mankind does not today and never has dealt with human nature as it really and truly is – because he can’t! Anyway, with that background, let me quote from Mr. President Woodrow Wilson speaking about the Bible: “...*I would be afraid to go forward if I did not believe that there lies at the foundation of all of our schooling and all our thoughts the*

*Is the Bible Important?*

---

*unimpeachable Word of God*". A president cannot make that statement today, friends; but one could make that statement back in 1914; just another reason we are in such desperate condition as a nation. If you want to be made great again, my beloved, the inspired, inerrant and unimpeachable Word of God is going to have to be our standard.

\*\*\*\*\*

Gregory the Great made the following statement: "[the Bible] is a stream in which an elephant may swim; and the lamb may wade." Think in terms of standing at the edge of the ocean. We could never swim across it nor can we fully comprehend it. We're just God's children playing in the sand - building castles that will wash away with high tide.

Thomas Jefferson was a deist who, if judged by today's standards, would undoubtedly *not* be classified as a Christian. I don't want to argue that point and I am not sitting in judgment upon a man that was far greater than I will ever be; but I will quote what he said about the Bible and let that speak for itself. "I have always said and always will say that the studious perusal of the Sacred Body will make better citizens, better fathers and better husbands of Americans". There's something to think about in this current age of everything anti-family.

Although the Bible may be in disrepute in many places today, it continues to bring the only truth and wisdom to this lost and dying world that it has ever known, knows - or ever will know - just as in times past. Unfortunately, sound doctrine is undeniably slipping rapidly away from the church. Dr Samuel Johnson, the great literary critic and English writer, said the following to a young man that was sitting with him while the doctor was on his deathbed. "Young man, attend to the advice of a man who has possessed a certain degree of fame in the world; and one who will very shortly meet his maker, 'Read the Bible every day'."

Daniel Webster, "...."*I have read [the Bible] through many times. I now make it my practice to go through it once each year. It is the book [of all books] for lawyers, as well as divines; and I pity the person that states they can not find a rich supply of rules for which to conduct themselves by*".

Is the Bible Important?

---

The easy tendency today for most preachers is to stay in familiar areas of the Bible and form theme's to preach in series. In the Gospel of John it is hard to go wrong with a congregation. Philippians makes for smooth, easy sailing on the high seas of Christianity. Conflate the church and the nation Israel and the world will love you. Many others go completely off the deep end in prophecy. Well, our Spiritual Safari takes it all, my friends - every bit of it. And with that, I will mention one final quotation from the Scotch philosopher, Mr. Thomas Carlyle, "...a noble book – all men's book – it is our first, oldest statement of the never-ending problem: mans destiny and God's way with him here on earth - and all in such free-flowing outlines so grand in its sincerity; in its simplicity; in its epic melody and repose of reconciliation" ~

===