

THE GREATEST BOOK
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"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" II Tim. 3: 16-17.

Those of us who know the Lord know that the Bible is the greatest book that has ever been written. No other religious book has such clarity and power and gives a true picture of our creator and man's relationship to Him. After preaching it for 66 years, I see seven reasons why it is the greatest. First, **It Is God's Book.** Isaiah 34:16 calls it "*the book of the Lord.*" In the Old Testament it is recorded, "And God Spoke" no less than 3,000 times. Men may have held the pen as the Spirit gave the words but it is our creators instructions to all mankind. **It Was Recorded By Holy Men.** For instance Jeremiah was commanded to "*Write the all the words I have spoken unto thee in a book*" Jer. 30:2. We are told "*For the prophecy came not of old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*" II Peter 1:21. Our Bible was further written with **Spirit Breathed Accuracy.** II Tim. 3:16 says "*All scripture is given by the inspiration of God.*" There are no errors in the Word of God! The Lord Jesus verified His book in every way. Noah's ark, for example, has been photographed on Mt. Arrat where it came to rest. Every old time prophecy has happened just as predicted. Future warnings will be carried out as God warned long ago. His declarations and promises will come to pass without doubt. Furthermore the Bible is **Great Because of Its Purpose.** It wants to make us "wise unto salvation" II Tim. 3:15. It further teaches doctrine, issues reproof, encourages correction and gives instruction in

righteousness. No other book gives Gods purpose and desire for us furnishing us with the wisdom to be what God wants. The Bible further is great **Because Of Its Superior Position.** The warning is very clear and care must be given to its directions. "*Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed; but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded*" Prov. 13:13. In Revelation 22:19 God warns "*if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life.*" The verse before warns also of the danger of adding to the Word of God. The Bible is the vocal expression of the King of Kings and you better respect and obey it. Further we need to see the **Bibles Great Power.** "*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*" Heb. 4:12. There is no power like that of the Word of God. You cannot be saved without believing the promises and the creator's power to save. You can find God's solutions to all your problems in His Book. We face many challenges but God is able to meet and solve them all. His power stretches from the past into eternity. He is able to deliver thee. Number seven would be **Its Future.** God's Word is as eternal as He himself. Mark 13:31 says "*Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away*". Down through the ages God has protected His Word and it will be always with us. Man is a fool to ignore its warnings and call it no longer relevant. What God calls sin will never change, whatever men may argue. One day the Bible warns all will stand at the judgment to be rewarded or punished for our lifetime actions. Remember, "*It is appointed unto man to die but after this the judgment*" Heb. 9:27. Please remember the Bible and our obedience or disobedience to its commands all come

together in a final judgment. In our lifetime, to sin against this book is to sin against the God of this book. I have shown why the Bible is the greatest and now desire to warn of **Five Sins Against It**, which are often committed by today's believers. First there is **Doubting It**. We are warned in Hebrews 11:6 "*without faith it is impossible to please God.*" Paul warned that "*whatsoever is not of faith is sin*" Rom. 14:23. When you hang a question mark on any of God's pronouncements you are calling God a liar. This devilish thing called doubt reared its ugly head in the garden and plagues man continually. The clear truth is that a believer should never doubt the Bible and lovingly follow its teaching. Never reject the clear teachings of the Word of God. The second sin is **Disobeying It**. In Rev. 1:3 we read "*blessed is he that readeth, and hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.*" Again, "*Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it*" Luke 11:28. You must not ignore a verse because you reject it or reason a different meaning to allow continuance in your disobedience. Sadly, most Christians dig in their heels and refuse clear teaching on some failure we excuse. We just can't seem to be different from the world even though the Word demands it. A pouting believer will seldom wear the smile of compliance to our Godly manual of instruction. Its clear you will obey or pay. The third sin is **To Neglect Reading It**. Isaiah 34:16 urges, *seek ye out of the book of the Lord and read.*" We are told "*as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby*" I Peter 2:2. We are commanded to "*study to shew thyself approved, unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*" II Tim. 2:15. It takes discipline to set aside a time and place to daily consult the Word of God. Dad, you need to rally the family for devotional moments around the book of books. Sell your family short in this and it will sooner or later

fall apart and fail to be its best. Don't sit around and grumble about family problems when you did not as a family search out the will of God. Daily Bible reading will be like vitamins to your spiritual health. I think of two more sins, one of which is **Failure To Memorize It**. The Psalmist said a mouthful when he said "*thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee*" Psm. 119:11. Lets face the fact that most of us are lazy when it comes to dedicated memorizing of the Bible. So many Christians bathe themselves constantly with TV, radio, and the attractions of this life, they fail to meditate on the things of God. You need to start underlining special verses in your Bible and print them on small cards to carry and start learning the truths of God. The world throws daily despair in your face which could be defeated by the memorized Word. I challenge you to set aside a half hour a day and work on memorizing Biblical heavenly manna. It will change your family and your personal life in a wonderful way. Lastly, **Neglecting To Use It**. We are commanded to be "*holding forth the word of life*" Phil 2:16. We are not to be "*ashamed of the gospel of Christ*" Rom. 1:16. Somehow the boldness has drained from our daily words and actions. Most of the world around you has no clue as to genuine salvation. They want get it from their church or the watered down religious teachings of the day. True believers have the answer to the mess that threatens to destroy America. There must be a revival of the saints, allowing an influx of genuine concern for lost humanity around us. Psalm 81:10 urges "*open thy mouth wide and I will fill it.*" Will you give God that opportunity? Let's adjust our attitude toward the Word of God, stop taking it for granted and turn it loose to accomplish its purpose. Remember, "*thy word forever is settled in heaven*" Psa. 119:89. All else will fail but the Word of God. Amen!