

*Practical Religion*  
LESSON 5: BIBLE READING

*I have stored up your word in my heart, that I may not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11)*

### Introduction

- I. No other book is *like the Bible* (2 Ti. 3:16; 2 Pt. 1:21).
- II. No knowledge is *necessary for salvation* but what is found in the Bible (Ps. 19:11; Ho. 4:6).
- III. No other book contains *such important matters* as the Bible.
  - a. Namely: God's plan of salvation (Ro. 8:28-30); the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn. 17:6); his precious promises (e.g., Jd. 24, 25); and examples of godliness and wickedness (e.g., 1 Sa. 13:14).
- IV. No other book *can do so much* for anyone who reads it rightly as the Bible (2 Ti. 3:15)
  - a. Converting souls in the Holy Spirit (Ps. 19:7).
  - b. Building up saints in established faith (2 Ti. 3:15-17).
- V. The Bible is *the only rule* by which all questions of doctrine or of duty can be tried (Is. 8:20).
  - a. Difficulties of doctrine abound, but the Bible answers them all (Ps. 119:66).
  - b. Difficulties of practice abound, but the Bible answers them all (Je. 6:16).
- VI. All true saints have *always lived on and loved* the Bible (Ps. 1:2; 119; Jb. 23:12; Lk. 24:45).
- VII. The Bible is the only book which can *comfort us* in our final hours (Is. 43:2; 1 Co. 15:55; Ph. 1:21).

### Reflections

- I. *Can you, but do you never* read the Bible?
  - a. Danger! A neglected Bible is plain evidence you do not love God (Ro. 2:8; 2 Th. 1:8).
- II. Are you *willing* to begin reading the Bible, but need *advice*?
  - a. Begin today! (Hb. 4:7).
  - b. Read with desire to understand! (Ho. 6:3).
  - c. Read with childlike faith and humility! (1 Pt. 5:5).
  - d. Read in a spirit of obedience! (Ro. 16:25-27).
  - e. Read daily! (Lk. 21:37).
  - f. Read it all, and in an orderly way! (Dt. 32:46, 47).
  - g. Read the Bible fairly and honestly! (Pr. 18:7; Ez. 18:25; Ze. 3:5)
  - h. Read with Christ continually in view! (Lk. 24:27; Jn. 5:39)
- III. Do you *love and believe* the Bible, but read it *little*?
  - a. Little comfort from the Bible in time of need (Ps. 73:26).
  - b. Likely never to be established in the truth (Ps. 119:133; Co. 2:6, 7).
  - c. Likely to make mistakes in life (Lk. 21:34; Ro. 13:13; 1 Th. 4:11).
  - d. Likely to be carried by some phony false teachers for a season (Hb. 13:9).
- IV. Do you read the Bible *much*, but think yourself *no better* for it?
  - a. The greatest effects rarely make the most noise (1 Ki. 19:12; Ps. 51:6; Zc. 4:6; Jd. 1:16).
  - b. The Word may steadily make deep heart-impressions while you are unaware (Je. 31:33; Rv. 1:3).
  - c. The Bible may be restraining you from sin into which you would otherwise run (Ps. 119:105).
- V. Do you *really love* the Bible, *live* by it, and read it *much*?
  - a. Resolve to read the Bible more and more (Ps. 119:97).
  - b. Resolve to be more watchful over your Bible reading (Lk. 11:28)

- c. Resolve to honor the Bible more in your family (De. 4:9; Ep. 6:4)
- d. Resolve to meditate more on the Bible (Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:2)
- e. Resolve to talk more to believers about the Bible (Ep. 5:19; Co. 3:16; 1 Pt. 1:15).
- f. Resolve to live by the Bible more and more (Le. 18:5; Ne. 9:29; Ga. 3:12-14, Co. 3:4).