



“Back to the Bible”

Sun March 12, 2023

- I. **II Timothy 4:1-4**
 - A. Preach the Word....Preach the Truth....Preach the Bible and Its principles
 1. **II Timothy 3:13-17**
 2. **Hebrews 4:12**
 - * **Given by inspiration – God breathed**
 - * **Quick – Alive**
 - * **John 6:63** “The words I speak to you are spirit and life.”
 - * **Luke 21:33** “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never...”
 - B. The Bible History
 1. 66 Books divided by 2 testaments (Old & New or Before Christ and After)
 - 39 books in the Old Testament
 - 27 books in the New Testament
 - Over 40 authors written over a period of 1500 years
 2. How a book got included in the Bible
 - * *The Jews accepted the Old Testament books that we have today as the Word of God centuries before the birth of Jesus. Jesus affirmed the divine origin of these same books and even quoted from most of them during his ministry (one of the most profound scriptures that Jesus spoke of was when he stood up to read in the temple as His custom was and found the place that was written in the book of Isaiah chapter 61).*
 - * *After Jesus’s death and resurrection, His apostles and others began teaching and writing on Christian faith and practices. As false teachers began disrupting matters, the early church had to recognize which books were truly inspired by God which is called the canonization of the Bible. There were 2 basic tests in this process: **Who wrote it** (apostle or someone close to an apostle or Jesus) and **the test of antiquity** (had the church recognized these books as God’s Word to man). In 367 AD, the 66 books were accepted as the infallible Word of God.*
- II. Why the Bible is important..
 - A. **To You**
 1. **Psalms 1:1-3** (Your health, wealth, peace, and joy come from the Word).
 2. **Deuteronomy 6:5-9** (If you write it down, speak of it daily...YOU WILL NEVER FORGET!)
 3. **Proverbs 4:20-22** (God’s Word is medicine for your flesh).
 4. **Proverbs 3:1-2** (Long life and peace).
 - B. To Our Nation
 1. The Bible is why our nation is different than all others. It is the foundation of our country’s prosperity...the blessing has been on this country because of the founding father’s desire to see God at the center of it all. Even our currency and pledge of allegiance acknowledge God as the source of our existence....and the Bible is the hallmark for these achievements.

2. Our Country is the most prosperous country in the world....86% of all inventions have come from the U.S. (Airplane, internet, cell phone, email, and even the chocolate chip cookie...) (If you live in poverty in the United States, you are higher than the middle class in Europe....this is why so many people want to come to America...the lowest standard here is higher than any others in the world!)

3. Benjamin Franklin – as one of the least religious founding fathers of our country, gave this speech in 1797 at the Constitutional Convention at the age of 81 while struggling for weeks to get the 13 colonies to agree on becoming a nation - *In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayers in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our favor....and have we now forgotten this powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: 'that God governs in the affairs of man.'* And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? *We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this. I therefore beg leave to move that, henceforth, prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessing on our deliberation be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the Clergy of this City be requested to officiate in that service."*

- The speech was 14 sentences long.
 - 14 Bible verses were quoted in this speech!
4. On average, 250 + phrases are used on a daily basis by Americans that are phrases out of the Bible.
 - *Eye for an eye, house divided, fight the good fight, scapegoat, two-edged sword, two-cents worth, skin of your teeth, a leopard can't change his spots...*
 - Out of all the networks over the last 3 years, one network used more phrases from the Bible than the others...and they didn't even know it (ESPN).
 - The Bible is a part of our culture because it was there in the beginning...but if we are not careful, it will be taken out completely!

- In 1963, the Supreme Court made a ruling 8-1, that reading of the Bible along with the reciting of the Lord's Prayer was unconstitutional in public schools. The Basis was stated as this: There was nothing historical or of legal precedents that would cause us to remove this from the schools. They quoted Dr. Solomon Grayzel who was a leader in this fight against God's Word in our schools, who stated, *"If portions of the Bible were read without explanation, it could cause psychological damage to the child."* Essentially, he was saying the Bible could cause brain damage! (Can we please acknowledge what has happened since????)
5. *LGBTQ changed their name to LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Asexual or Ally, + is Other Non-Heterosexual People – which leaves room for expansion – according to them, there are currently are over 81 types of genders or gender identities...and growing!) (Roe v Wade...1973, LGB started gaining recognition in the 80's).*
 6. ***This great country has forgotten because they did not keep the most important thing that has been written!***
- C. Bible Reading & Scripture Memorization
1. American Bible Society, which is the largest Bible society in the world gave this report in 2022: 26 million more Americans stopped reading their Bible in 2022. This is how they define a person that reads their Bible: someone who reads their Bible outside of church...4 times per year.
 2. Jesus said this in **Matthew 4:4** *"Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."*
 3. We take care of our bodies and eat 3 meals a day...if we lived by this practice of only feeding our physical bodies after we have fed our spirits, we would have been dead a long time ago!
 4. A New challenge begins today....