

THE TIMELESS APPLICATION AND IMPACT OF THE BIBLE

Matthew 24:35

INTRODUCTION:

1. Our subject, The Timeless Application and Impact of The Bible, is one that is of great importance today.
 - A. The reason I make this claim is due to the general attitude that so many possess that claim that the Bible is an archaic book with little or no relevance to modern man.
 1. One speaker affirmed, “We’re moments away. I think the culture is already there. And the church will continue to be even more irrelevant when it quotes letters from 2,000 years ago as their best defense...” ¹
 2. Another argued, “The Bible cannot meet the needs of modern man. It is archaic and outdated. We need a new approach to solve the problems of a scientific age.” ²
 3. While yet another affirmed, “The Bible is old-fashioned and steeped in backward, prejudicial ethics. The moral hang-ups and inhibitions of a 2000 + year old book cannot provide the moral standard for a progressive society.” ³
2. In view of these statements, and thousands more like them that could be produced, I would suggest to us that so long as sin is prevalent the Bible is relevant.
 - A. With that in mind, let’s take a look at our subject.

BODY:

1. THE TIMELESS APPLICATION OF THE BIBLE

- A. The timelessness of the Bible, throughout the ages, never ceases to fill us with wonder as it inspires praise and devotion to God who gave it.
- B. It has been my practice for a number of years to read the Bible twice a year.
 1. Recently, I completed my 45th reading and began my 46th reading the next day.
 - A. I can honestly say I have benefitted from each reading!
- C. As with the Bereans, what greater service could we do for ourselves than to “search the Scriptures daily” - Acts 17:11?
- D. Paul wrote to Timothy informing him that the word of God

thoroughly equips Christians to be the people God would have them to be - 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

- E. Peter wrote that in the word of God we have the timeless principle even today that “all things that pertain to life and godliness” are found therein - 2 Peter 1:3.
1. That principle of God’s word is that in it we have everything we need to live holy and righteous lives preparing us for eternal life is just as true and applicable today as it was when it was first written.
 - A. The principles of the Bible, specifically the New Testament, are not limited to a specific point in time two thousand years ago as suggested in the previous quotes.
 - B. They are always true and applicable for living life as God created it to be lived.
 1. The simple fact is, the truth is the truth and will always be the truth - John 8:32; John 17:17.
- F. The timeless wisdom found in the Scriptures can make a powerful impact on our ability to “discern both good and evil” even nearly two thousand years after it was written - Hebrews 5:14.

2. THE IMPACT OF THE BIBLE

- A. There is no question that the Bible has been the most influential book in human history as well as the best and largest seller.
1. According to one report, “Americans overwhelmingly name the Bible as the book that comes to mind when they think of sacred literature or holy books (79%).
 - A. This proportion is nearly eight times the popularity of the next most frequently mentioned (so-called, RWS) holy book’, the Koran (10%).”⁴
 2. Another report indicated, “The Bible, which ranks as the world's most-read book, has sold 3.9 billion copies. However, many more copies have been given away for free, meaning the actual number of bibles in circulation is unknown. Additionally, since the Bible is sold worldwide, calculating exact numbers becomes tricky.”⁵
 3. Another report indicated there have been 6,001,500,000 Bibles sold.⁶
 4. While yet another revealed that “Americans don’t lack access to

the Bible, but it remains a big business for publishers in the United States. In fact, 88 percent of Americans have a copy of the Bible in their homes, according to a 2015 report from the Barna Group. Most homes have more than one copy, and nearly a quarter of people have more than five.”⁷

5. With this being true, there is no question as to the fact that the Bible has had a profound impact on the world.
 - A. The Bible has shaped every area of our lives, from the laws that protect us, to the principles that guide us.
- B. It is alleged that the 18th century philosopher Immanuel Kant wrote, “The existence of the Bible, as a book for the people, is the greatest benefit which the human race has ever experienced. Every attempt to belittle it is a crime against humanity.”⁸
- C. The Bible’s impact on morality.
 1. Thomas Jefferson, 3rd president of the United States, stated, “I have always said, I always will say, that the studious perusal of the sacred volume will make better citizens, better fathers, and better husbands.”⁹
 2. If we believe that morality has tanked in our world today imagine where we would be if the Bible did not exist.
 - A. Genesis 6:5 may well give us a picture of what it would be like.
 3. Of course the problem at hand is that although many own Bibles few are there who heed them - Matthew 7:22, 23; James 1:22.
 4. Study of the New Testament reveals that much of Paul’s writings were written to bring Christians into the knowledge of the Christian walk - Ephesians 4:1; Philippians 1:27.
 5. When the Corinthians were “puffed up” (“arrogant” - ESV) instead of mourning over the sinful condition of the man who was carrying on with his step mother, Paul addressed the situation - 1 Corinthians 5:1-5.
 6. Every moral issue imaginable has been addressed within Scripture to provide us with guidance in the Christian walk.
- D. The Bible’s impact on man’s spiritual condition.
 1. Of all conditions that the Bible has had the greatest impact would be on man’s spiritual condition.
 - A. Being separate and apart from obedience to God and His

word places one in a lost condition with nowhere else to turn for guidance back to God since sin is the transgression of that word - 1 John 3:4.

A. And the wages of sin is death - Romans 6:23.

2. The scriptures are God's power unto salvation, bringing about reconciliation to God - Romans 1:16; 2 Corinthians 5:19.
3. It is when one obeys from the heart the form of doctrine found within the scriptures that the road to redemption is revealed - Romans 6:16.
4. It is the "engrafted word" that is able to save the souls of the lost - James 1:21.
5. Thus the imperative to be doers of the word - James 1:22.

CONCLUSION:

1. We are blessed to have God's inspired, inerrant, plenary word reserved by His providence to the present time.

End Notes

1. <http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2015/February/Rob-Bell-Suggests-Bible-Not-Relevant-to-Todays-Culture>
2. <http://truthmagazine.com/archives/volume28/GOT028312.html>
3. <http://truthmagazine.com/archives/volume28/GOT028312.html>
4. http://www.americanbible.org/uploads/content/State_of_the_Bible_2015_report.pdf
5. <https://www.reference.com/world-view/many-copies-bible-sold-e9696e587c3244b6>
6. <http://www.statisticbrain.com/bibles-printed/>
7. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2015/08/28/the-most-popular-bible-of-the-year-is-probably-not-what-you-think-it-is/?utm_term=.dc53641142d5
8. <http://bibleresources.org/bibleresources/bible-quotes/>
9. <http://www.woundedfreedoms.com/quotes.html>