

Why is the Bible Important?

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **illus.:** song # 459, **The Precious Book Divine**
- review verses, then chorus

- **Why is the Bible Important?** – the precious book divine

➤ The Bible is how God communicating to us

- **God only reveals His mind, in His word (Bible)** – 2 Pet. 1:20-21
- **1 Cor. 2:10-13** only know **God's thoughts** (commands) if go to Bible - Spirit, apostles, Bible
- **illus.:** **Russia, Kaluga**, people wanted copy of Bible more than anything we had to offer

- - **absolute truth revealed in God's word (Bible)** - religion, morality, life on earth and heaven
- **Jn. 17:17** word is **truth**
- **2 Tim. 2:15** accurately handling **word of truth**

- - **therefore, we must obey God's word (truth, Jesus)**
- **1 Pet. 1:22-23** obey, **truth (word, Bible)**, purified your souls, born again

- **Why is the Bible important?** - it's God's word, must obey God's word to be saved, can't be saved without the Bible

- **Does your treatment of the Bible (God's word) reflect its importance?**

- **illus.:** **terminally ill person on oxygen** – pic.
- they make sure the **tanks are filled**
- they always know **where their tanks are**
- they treat the oxygen machine with **care, making sure it's maintained**
- they **don't carelessly throw the tanks around**, damaging them
- **How should we treat the Bible, since our souls depend on this one book?** – pic.
- **carelessly throw it around**, purposely damaging it, **or take care of it and treasure it**
- **forget where we put it, or know where it is**, because use it all the time
- **let it sit around and collect dust** without being used, **or keep it clean by virtue of constant use**

- **The Bible is how God lights our path** – the precious book divine
 - **Ps. 119:105, 130** word, lamp, light, understanding
 - **illus.: Allan, music teacher at band camp - got lost**
 - took the high school kids on a late-night hike, to scare them, after telling them scary stories - got lost
 - kept walking, finally bumped into camp counselors, who scared the kids really bad - led us out
 - counselor was the light to our path – figuratively – led us out
 - God’s word lights our path – figuratively – leads us through life, out of sin, to heaven
- - **Pr. 16:25** without God’s word, we’re doomed to eternal damnation
 - **illus.: lost at camp** (continued)
 - without the counselor to lead us out, we wouldn’t have gotten out of the woods that night
 - without God’s word, we’d be eternally lost, no way to “get out of the woods”

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- **The Bible tells us how to be saved** – the precious book divine
 - **illus.: a lot of people telling us lots of different ways to be saved**
 - pray a prayer of faith
 - be christened as a baby and confirmed later when you grow up
 - just believe, faith only
 - do whatever you think is right
 - God / Bible is the only One we can trust to tell us how to be saved
 - **Acts 26:16-18** purpose / result of God’s word – this is what the Bible (God’s word) does for us
 - vs. 18 open our eyes – know truth from lies, know good from evil, know the salvation
 - 2 Cor. 3:15 when obey Jesus, veil removed, enlightened
 - Col. 2:3 treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ
 - vs. 18 turn us from darkness to light – dominion of Satan to God – God’s word lights our path
 - Col. 1:13 when obey Jesus, rescued from domain of darkness, transferred into kingdom of Jesus
 - vs. 18 so may receive forgiveness of sins / inheritance
 - without Bible, would be in darkness without light, would be lost for eternity
 - - the Bible message, what we must do to be saved
 - believe, repent, confess, baptized, faithfully serve
 - **Rom. 10:17** hearing comes before faith
 - obedience / salvation not possible unless we hear (understand) the word of God first
 - - **illus.: Colossians**
 - **Col. 1:3-7** history of their salvation – **Col. 1:13**
 - vs. 7 Epaphras taught them the gospel
 - vs. 5 heard the truth, gospel (from Epaphras’ teaching)
 - vs. 6 understood in truth what they heard – if not understand, hearing does not good
 - application:
 - without the Bible, we can’t be saved
 - without hearing and understanding the gospel, revealed in the Bible, we can’t be saved

- **The Bible makes us the world's Bible** – light to the world, as it is the light
 - illus.: song #460, The World's Bible
 - review all verses

 - - **we are lights to the world**
 - **Phil. 2:15-16a** lights in the world, holding fast the word of life
 - **Matt. 5:14-16** light of the world, like city on a hill not hid

 - - **how are we lights**
 - **Eph. 5:8-11** walk as children of light, fruit, not participate in sin, expose darkness

 - **result:**
 - **Jn. 3:19-20; 15:18-19** some people will hate us, as they hate Jesus and hate the light that exposes their evil
 - **Jn. 3:21; 12:46** some people will obey the gospel and be saved, coming to the light, because of our example
 - illus.: Christian wife, by her example (light), can win an unbelieving husband to Christ without saying a word (1 Pet. 3)
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- **Summary / Inv.**
 - **Why is the Bible important?**– the precious book divine
 - it's how God communicates to us
 - it's how God lights our path
 - it's how we know the true way to be saved
 - when we obey it, we become the world's Bible – have a chance of saving some through gospel

 - **inv.:** if you believe the Bible, and you're not a Christian, today is the day to obey God's word