

INTRODUCTION

- A. ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH & LIFE** (see 2Tm.3:15b)
- B. WELCOME, CHILDREN!** (Mt.19:14; Mk.10:14; Lk.18:16; see Eph.6:4)
- C. THE WORKS OF GOD: MADE & SEEN** (Ps.19:1-6; Rom.1:18f; general revelation/inexcusable unbelief)
- D. THE WORDS OF GOD: SPOKEN & HEARD** (Ps.19:7f; Ps.33:9; Jn.1:1f; Mk.4:9,23; special revelatn/savng faith)

I. THE BIBLE

- A. THE STORY OF PARADISE LOST & FOUND** (see Eph.2:1-10; see Gen.1-3 & Rev.19-22)
- B. THE OLD TESTAMENT PROLOGUE** (Gen.1-3; 15; 2Sam.7; Ps.2, 22, 110; Is.53; Dan.7)
- C. THE NEW TESTAMENT EPILOGUE** (Gospels; Col.1:13; 2:12; 2:20&3:1; 3:9&10; 3:5f&12f; 1Th.4:13f)
- D. THE MAIN EVENT** (Heb.1:1f; Jn.1:1f; Col.1:15f; Rev.1; 19-22; see Jn.5:46; Lk.24:44)

II. INSPIRATION: BREATHE IN

- A. CREATION** (Gen.1:3; Ps.33:9; see Gen.2:7)
- B. MOSES** (Ex.4:12f)
- C. ISAIAH & JEREMIAH** (Is.51:16; 59:21; Jer.1:9; 5:14)
- D. PAUL: GOD-BREATHED** (2Tm.3:16)
- E. PETER: SPIRIT- DRIVEN** (2Pt.1:21)
- F. ILLUSTRATION: A WIND INSTRUMENT** (see 1Th.2:13)

III. ILLUMINATION: LIGHT FOR THE EYES (see Ps.119:18, 105, 130)

- A. MIXED METAPHORS: A BIBLICAL VIRTUE!**
- B. EARS TO HEAR** (Dt.29:4; Ezk.12:2; Mt.13:3,9; 11,16; Jn.10:16,27)
- C. EYES TO SEE** (Dt.29:4; Ezk.12:2; Mt.13:16; 2Pt.1:19 (Rev.2:28; 22:16; Jn.8:12; 2Cor.4:4))
- D. INNARDS TO UNDERSTAND** (Dt.29:4; 1Kngs.3:9; Ps.119:34; Jer.24:7; Lk.24:44,45)
- E. ILLUSTRATION: HEALING SPIRITUAL DEADNESS** (Ps.119:18; 2Tm.3:15f; Eph.2:1-10; see Mt.15:14; 23:16f; Rom.2:19; 2Cor.4:4; 2Pt.1:9; 1Jn.2:11; Rev.3:17)

IV. THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD FOR YOUR SALVATION! (1Th.2:13; 2Tm.3:14-17; Lk.24:44;

Jn.1:1; 5:46; see Rom.15:4)

- A. INHALE THE BREATH OF LIFE!** (Gen.1:3; 2:7; Ezk.37:4f; Jn.6:63,68)
- B. RECEIVE THE SEED OF LIFE!** (Jms.1:22f (Ezk.33:32); Mt.13:18f; 1Pt.1:23)
- C. ASK FOR EYES TO SEE & EARS TO HEAR & INNARDS TO UNDERSTAND!** (Lk.18:41; 24:45,32; 11:13 (2Pt.1:21; 1Cor.2:9f); Jn.6:63,68; 3:8; Ezk.37:9; 1Kngs.3:9; see Mt.22:39; Job 1:5; Lk.8:41)
- D. BE “THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK”** (i.e., Islam’s description of Jews & Christians; see Ps.119; Acts 2:42; Lk.4:4f; 6:3; Mt.22:29; see Ezra 7:10; Eph.4:11,12; 1Tm.4:11-16; 5:17; 2Tm.3:16,17; reading (private, family), teaching, preaching / concordance, dictionary, commentary)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

1. What does the Bible say about its own nature?
2. What is “inspiration”? What is “illumination”? What are your favorite Bible pictures of these things and why?
3. Why did God give us the Bible? What two purposes are highlighted in 2Tm.3:14-17?
4. Can we understand the Scriptures by a simple use of human reason? Why or why not?
5. How have you learned the Scriptures? How have they been instrumental in your faith and life? What are some of your favorite verses and why?
6. What are your disciplines in Bible reading, study and hearing (i.e., preaching)? How would you like to improve your disciplines in these things?
7. How has the Lord blessed the teaching and preaching in this congregation to you?
8. Who are your favorite teachers and why? (e.g., R.C. Sproul) Who are your favorite preachers and why? (e.g., Charles Spurgeon).
9. What tools have been most helpful to you for understanding the Bible? (e.g., concordances, dictionaries, commentaries, other books; seminar, etc.)

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

1. What lessons do you learn from the parable of the sower? (see Mt.13:1f)
2. Read and discuss Chapter 1 from the Westminster Confession of Faith; questions 2-5 of the Larger Catechism and Questions 2,3 of the Shorter Catechism.
3. Which Person of the Trinity is in charge of inspiration and illumination? How is this emphasized in the Confession, chapter 1?
4. What is the “infallibility” of the Scriptures? What is the “inerrancy” of the Scriptures?