

Life Lesson 1
Introducing God's Word
Text: Psalm 119:72, 105; II Timothy 3:16

Introduction

How would you like to discover a secret treasure chest? Wouldn't that be exciting? Imagine that a chest full of diamonds, rubies, and gold was hidden somewhere in your house. You would hunt for it until you found it. Then it would be your greatest treasure. Wouldn't you like to take it out every day and just look through all your precious jewels?

The Story

Now I'll tell you a secret. You have a treasure chest – and it's full of things even more precious than gold and jewels. It's God's Word, the Bible. Psalm 119:72 says "The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver."

Why is God's Word so precious to us? One reason is that it is God's message to us. Because we are sinners, we can't talk to God face to face. But God has things He wants to tell us, so He wrote us a letter. It's a long letter, because God has so much to tell us. He tells us how He loves us. He tells us how to become His child, and He tells us how to live and act so that we can be happy and make Him happy.

If you received a letter from a friend who lived a long way away, what would you do? You'd read it! Don't you think you ought to read God's letter to you? You couldn't read it all at once, but if you read just a chapter a day you'll be able to read the Bible all the way through several times before you are grown up.

The Bible is like a treasure chest and like a letter. It is also like a light. Psalm 119:105 says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

Pretend for a moment that you lived in a place that was always dark. What would it be like? What would happen if you got dirty? No one would ever know if you lived in a dark world. You wouldn't be able to tell if your face was dirty. Even if you tried to clean it, you couldn't tell if you were getting the dirt off or not.

That's what wrong with people in our world today. They don't have the light of God's Word so they don't know they are living in the darkness of sin. They can't see that their lives are dirty. We want to study God's Word so we can learn what is right and what is wrong. As we read the Bible, God will use it like a lamp to show us what we need to do to be pure and clean in our hearts.

If you lived in a dark world it would also be hard to tell where you were going. You would probably stumble and fall over everything in your path because you couldn't see it. God uses His Word like a light to show us the things that could harm us. He lets us see clearly the way we should live so that we won't stumble and fall.

What is God's Word like? It's like a treasure chest, a letter, and a light. God also compares it to a sword, because He uses it to cut through our proud self-will and pricks our hearts with it. That means He uses it to show us we need to be saved, first of all. Then He shows Christians when they are doing things that aren't right.

The Bible is like a lot of different things, isn't it? It's such a wonderful book that we can study it all our lives and still never find an end to the wonderful things it contains.

Have you ever wondered how God gave the Bible to us? He could have sent an angel down from Heaven to deliver it to us. Instead, He chose to use men to write down His message for us. God's Holy Spirit told those special men exactly what He wanted them to write down. Every single word of the Bible is just what God said. Some people will tell you that God wrote

part of the Bible and men made up the other parts, but we know that isn't right. II Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God."

God used about 40 men to record his message to us. Moses, David, Solomon, and Paul are some of those men. Of course, it wasn't all written at the same time. It took about 1500 years for the Bible to be completed. Now it is finished and we have God's whole message to us.

It's one big book, but it is also a whole library of books. There are 66 small books in our Bible. Some are books of law, some of history, and some are poetry.

The Bible is divided into two main parts. The Old Testament is the longest part. It has 39 books. The Old Testament tells about the time from the beginning of the world until right before the birth of Jesus. The New Testament starts with the birth of Jesus and tells of His life. It also tells of the early Christians. There are 27 books in the New Testament.

The Life Lesson

You have a treasure chest full of wonderful things. You have a big, long letter with a message to you from God. You have light to keep you from making mistakes. You have a sword of your own. You have a whole library full of books you can hold in your hand. Now it's up to you to use this wonderful gift God gave you – The Bible.

Review Questions

What is God's Word like?

A treasure chest, a letter, a light, a sword, and a library

.

How many men did God use to write down the Bible?

40

How long did it take for the whole Bible to be written down?

About 1500 years.

How many books are in the Bible?

66

The Bible is divided into two main parts. What are they?

The Old Testament and the New Testament.

How many books are in the Old Testament?

39

How many books are in the New Testament?

27

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