

GROWTH TRACK
Lesson One
The Local Church

Deuteronomy 28:1-2 "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:

"To the influence of this Book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this we look as our guide in the future." Ulysses S. Grant

1. The Bible is the Word of God. Writers were inspired by Holy Spirit.

a. **2 Peter 1:20-21** knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God[b] spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

2. The Bible is understood with Holy Spirit help.

a. **1 Corinthians 2:9-11** But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God;

1 Corinthians 12:1-4 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: 2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. 4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

In the Book lie the greatest values to man.

3. The Spiritual Values.

a. The Bible is the only source wherein is unfolded the great plan of full salvation.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

b. Spiritual growth comes from the Bible. **1 Peter 2:1-2** Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

Hebrews 5:12-14 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. 13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

4. The Moral Values.

a. Wherever the Bible goes, morality goes. "This book will keep you from sin, and sin will keep you from this Book." D.L. Moody

b. The Bible produces in us the character of God who is holy. **2 Peter 1:4** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5. The Physical Values.

a. He sent His Word and healed them. **Ps.107:20** He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions.

b. One Word from God will bring health. **Luke 7:7** Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.

c. The indirect value of the Bible in healing is evidenced by the multitude of hospitals in western civilization. Such institutions were unknown before the coming of the gospel. Hospitals have resulted from the influence of Christian missionaries and others inspired by Christlike Compassion.

6. The Intellectual Values.

a. **Ps.119:97-100** Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. 98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. 100 I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts.

b. The Bible has made a supreme contribution to popular education. More than any book or force in history, it has been the great liberator of the human mind. It has burst open the doors of superstition. Its translations have been the classic event in the educational advance of any people speaking the language.

c. The founding of Christian colleges and their rapid growth in America is an epic starting with a hunger and thirst for a greater knowledge of Scripture.

7. The Personal Values.

a. Source of peace of mind. **Philippians 4:6-8** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

b. Source of guidance for decision making. **James 1:5** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

c. Source of Prosperity. **Deuteronomy 8:18** "And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

8. The Social Values.

a. The greatest contribution to society is the Christian ethics that have come from the Bible.

b. The United Nations may ignore God, but it exists because of God. It may flaunt the Bible but it reflects the values of the Book. (Human rights, etc,)

9. The Eternal Values.

a. Living for Eternity. **John 20:31** but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

b. Helping Others find Eternal Life.