

# Is the Bible God's Word?

## 1 Thessalonians 2:13

### SLIDE 1

#### I. Intro

- Anecdote

- Best Seller

- The Bible - it's the best-selling book of all time.

- Not only that - but - the Bible is also the best-selling book **of the year** - each and EVERY year.

- As a matter of fact - there are more than 20 million Bibles sold each year in the United States alone.

- That being the case - we shouldn't be surprised to learn that there's at least one Bible - in 85% of the homes - here in the U.S.

- And according to the research conducted by Lifeway - - the average household in America - has at least 4 Bibles.

- And when we factor in the Bible apps that people download to their cellphones...

- ...there should be no doubt that - the Bible is a book that is readily available to every American.

- Ignorance

- At the same time - most Americans are Biblically illiterate - - and the reason why is because - very few of us spend time studying the scriptures.

- The proof of my point can be found in a recent poll - conducted by the American Bible Society.

- According to that ABS survey - a meager 16% of Americans read the Bible at least four times a week.

- The same report also reveals that only 10% of Americans engage in daily Bible reading...
- ...which is four percentage points down from the pre-pandemic amount of 14 percent.
- And according to Scott McConnell - who serves as the executive director - at LifeWay research...

## SLIDE 2

“Most Americans don’t know firsthand the overall story of the Bible – because they rarely pick it up. Even among worship attendees, less than half read the Bible daily. The only time most Americans hear from the Bible is when someone else is reading it.”

- Rejection
  - Now - in order to grasp this discrepancy - between Bible ownership - and Bible illiteracy...

## SLIDE 3

- ...it’s important to understand that - most Americans don’t really believe that the Bible is the word of God.
- In order to prove my point - let’s consider the results of a recent Gallup poll - which helps us to see that...
  - ...only 20% of Americans now say the Bible is the literal word of God.
  - That’s right - only 20% of Americans believe that the Bible is the divinely inspired - inerrant - and infallible word of God.
    - And as we consider this new record low - - it’s no wonder that so few are actually spending time - studying the scriptures.
- Authority
  - Think about it - - if the Bible isn’t the divinely inspired - inerrant and infallible word of God...

- ...then - it's just another religious book - written by men - who were attempting to control the masses.
- And if the Bible is just another religious book - written by men who were attempting to control the masses...
- ...then - there's no reason for anyone to think that this religious writing deserves our daily attention.
- At the same time - if the Bible is the divinely inspired - inerrant - and infallible word of God...
  - ...then - it only stands to reason that - this book is also the objective basis - for developing a proper worldview
  - That being the case - we should take some time to ask - is the Bible the divinely inspired - inerrant - and infallible word of God?

## II. Outline

### ● Points

- The Bible
  - Here in our text today - - we find Paul - assuring his audience - about the supreme authority of God's holy word.
  - And as we take the time to consider Paul's point of view - regarding the word of God...
  - ...we're also going to examine the evidence - which will help us to see that...

**SLIDE 4**

1. ...the Bible is Divinely Inspired

**SLIDE 5**

2. ...the Bible is Definitively Inerrant

**SLIDE 6**

3. ...the Bible is Doctrinally Infallible

- With this as our outline let's open our Bibles to 1st Thessalonians chapter 2...

## SLIDE 7

- ...where we find Paul - assuring his audience - about the supernatural origins of the Bible.

### III. Inspired

- Set up

- Facts

- As you make your way to the second chapter of 1st Thessalonians - I should take a moment to point out that...
- ...the canon of scripture that we call the Bible - actually contains 66 books - which were written over a period of 1500 years.
- These books were also written by 40 different authors - who came from a variety of backgrounds...
- ...which includes both kings and commoners - - not to mention a few fishermen - one physician...
- ...and let's not forget about the former Pharisee - who penned 14 epistles. -including the one we're studying this morning.
- With this as our focus - let's turn our attention - to 1st Thessalonians chapter 2.
- Look with me there at verse 13 - where Paul declared...

## SLIDE 8

- Text

1Th 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

- The Word

- Here in this verse - we find Paul - glorifying God - for the way that the recipients of this epistle - received the truth of God's word.

## **SLIDE 9**

- And just to be clear - I should take a moment to remind you that - Paul penned this epistle...
  - ...prior to the completion - and canonization of the New Testament.
  - Therefore - when Paul referred to the word of God - he was technically talking about the 39 books that we find in the Old Testament.
  - And as we consider the way that he referred to those texts as THE WORD OF GOD - - there should be no doubt in our minds...
    - ...that Paul was a man who believed in the divine inspiration of the Old Testament.
- Heard
  - In order to prove my point - let's take another look there at verse 13 - where Paul declared...

## **SLIDE 10**

1Th 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us...

- Now - I wanna stop right here - so that we can consider the way in which the original recipients of this epistle - received the word of God.

## **SLIDE 11**

- We should first notice that - they heard the word of God - from the teachings presented by Paul.
- That word - heard - was translated from a Greek word - which refers to the sense of hearing.
- What this means is that - the Christians at the church in Thessalonica had become believers...

- ...after hearing and embracing the instructions that Paul presented - from the Old Testament scriptures.

- New Testament

- From this - it seems to me that - Paul not only believed in the divine inspiration of the Old Testament...
- ...but - he also believed in the divine inspiration - of the instructions that we now find in the New Testament.
- In order to explain my point - - it'll help you to know that - one third of the New Testament - is from the Old Testament.

### **SLIDE 12**

- In other words - 33% of the New Testament - is actually a quotation that comes from the Old Testament.

- But now - before we attribute this to plagiarism - - you should know that the New Testament authors were helping us to understand...

### **SLIDE 13**

- ...how the promises and the prophecies found in the Old Testament - have been fulfilled.

- And it's here in our text today - where we find a Biblical basis - for believing in the divine inspiration of the Bible.

- Inspiration

- In order to prove my point - let's take another look there at verse 13 - where Paul declared...

### **SLIDE 14**

1Th 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God...

- Now - I wanna stop right here - so that we can consider the way that the believers in Thessalonica - received the instructions of Paul.

### **SLIDE 15**

- According to Paul - they didn't receive his teachings - as the ideas of human origin.
- No - instead - they received his teachings as the divinely inspired word of God.
- And while their belief doesn't prove that the Bible IS the divinely inspired word of God...
  - ...this verse does help us to see that - the first century Saints believed in the divine inspiration of the scriptures.
- Divine Inspiration
  - Now - in order to better understand what I mean - when I refer to the divine inspiration of God's word...
  - ...we should consider the way that Paul described it - in his second letter to a pastor named Timothy.
  - With this as our focus - hold your place - here in 1st Thessalonians - and let's turn in our Bibles - to 2nd Timothy chapter 3.
  - And as you make your way to the 3rd chapter of 2nd Timothy - I should take a moment to point out that...
    - ...when Paul referred to the scriptures as THE WORD of GOD...
    - ...he was simultaneously assuring us that - the Bible is a creation of divine inspiration.
- Inspiration
  - Let's consider how he put it - here in 2nd Timothy chapter 3 - look with beginning there at verse 14 - where Paul instructed Timothy - to...

**SLIDE 16-17**

2Ti 3:14 ...continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

2Ti 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2Ti 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - encouraging pastor Timothy to realize that...

### **SLIDE 18**

- ...the Holy Scriptures that we find in the Bible - weren't just the words of finite men.
- No - instead - the Holy scriptures that we find in the Bible - were written by men - who were divinely inspired by an infinite God.
- And just to be clear - it'll help you to know that - the phrase - given by inspiration of God - found there in verse 16...
  - ...was translated from one Greek word - which speaks of the very breath of God.
- VPI
- I like the way that the scholars who created the English Standard Version of the Bible - rendered verse 16 - they put it like this...

### **SLIDE 19**

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness

- From this - we can see that - Paul truly believed that the content of the Bible was breathed out by God.

### **SLIDE 20**

- And as we consider his belief in the divine inspiration of the Bible...
  - ...it's no wonder that conservative Christian pastors - like myself - believe in the verbal plenary inspiration of God's word.

- More simply put - I believe that - when it comes to the original autographs of each book...
  - ...every word - and every part of the Bible - was divinely guided by the Spirit of God.
- Proof?
  - Now - - when it comes to the verbal plenary inspiration of God's word - I'm sure we all realize that - believing it - doesn't make it so.
  - That being the case - we should take a moment to ask - is there any evidence - for the divine inspiration of the Bible?
    - With this question in mind - I wanna consider something that the apostle Peter wrote - in his second epistle.
      - Continue holding your place - there in 2nd Thessalonians - - and let's turn in our Bibles - to 2nd Peter chapter 1.
        - And as you make your way to the first chapter of 2nd Peter - I wanna spend some time...
          - ...considering the evidence - which is based on Biblical continuity.
  - Continuity
    - Now - in order to grasp the evidence that I'm referring to - I should take a moment to remind you that...
      - ...the Bible includes 66 books - written by 40 authors - over the course of 1500 years - by men with very different backgrounds.

#### **SLIDE 21**

- Not only that - but - the books of the Bible were also written on 3 different continents - using 3 different languages.

#### **SLIDE 22**

- And let's not forget about the variety of literary genres - which include poetry, prophecy, parables and precepts.

- And yet - despite all of these differences - the canon of scripture contains one CONTINUOUS communication...

## SLIDE 23

- ...which helps us to understand God's perfect plan for redeeming sinful man - - through the substitutionary sacrifice of our Savior.

### • Difficulty

- Now - let's think about that for a moment - - how difficult would it be - to convince 40 different guys - here in the 21st century...
- ...to collaborate on a book - that has a continuous - consistent revelation of God's plan of redemption?
- And when you factor in the time frame that it took - for all 66 books to be completed - and canonized...
- ...there is no doubt in my mind - that divine inspiration is the best explanation for this incredible book.
- In order to further make my case - we must not fail to factor in all of the fulfilled prophecies...
  - ...that we find throughout both the Old - and New Testaments.

### ● Application

- Prophecy
- For the sake of clarity - it'll help you to know that - a prophecy is God's way of revealing the future - in advance.
- And according to the research of one theologian named J. Barton Payne - over one fourth of the Bible is prophetic in nature.
- As a matter of fact - 27 percent of the Bible is prophetic in nature - which is equivalent to more than one in four Bible verses.

- Not only that - but - as we consider the amazing accuracy of the prophecies that have already been fulfilled...
- ...the statistical probabilities help us to see that - the Bible must be inspired...
- ...by the mind of an infinite being - Who is able to see the end - from the beginning.
- Prophecy
  - I like the way that the apostle put it - here in 2nd Peter chapter 1 - look with me - beginning there at verse 19 - where Peter declared...

### **SLIDE 24-25**

2Pe 1:19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

2Pe 1:20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

2Pe 1:21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

- Here in these verses - we find the apostle Peter - appealing to the prophecies of the Bible...

### **SLIDE 26**

- ...as the powerful proof - that the Bible was divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit of God.
- And as we consider the way that Christ Jesus came - and fulfilled the prophecies that point to the first advents of the Messiah...
- ...we can rejoice in knowing that - there's excellent evidence that helps us to see that...
- ...the Bible is in fact - the divinely inspired word of God.

### ● Transition

- Points

1. And while it's true that the Bible is the Divinely Inspired Word of God...

2. ...it's also true that - the Bible is the Definitively Inerrant Word of God.

## **SLIDE 27**

- In order to make my case - let's make our way back to 1st Thessalonians chapter 2...
- ...where we find Paul - assuring his audience about the inerrancy of God's word.
- Let's consider how Paul put it - there in verse 13 - where he declared...

## IV. Inerrant

### **SLIDE 28**

#### ● Text

1Th 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

- Truth
- Now - as we take a closer look at this verse - we must not fail to notice that word - truth.

### **SLIDE 29**

- For the sake of clarity - Paul was using a Greek word - which can also be rendered - most certainly - undoubtedly - or definitely.
- The same Greek word was also used to describe that which corresponds with reality.
- And what this means is that - when Paul informed his audience - that the Bible is the word of God...
- ...they could be certain that this claim - actually corresponds with reality.

- And in this way - Paul was assuring us about the inerrancy of our sacred scriptures.
- Variants
  - Now - just to be clear - it'll help you to know that - the word - Inerrancy - speaks of that which is incapable of being wrong.
  - Inerrancy is also defined as that which is free from error.
    - And when it comes to the inerrancy of the Bible - there are many who are quick to point out that...
      - ...the Bibles we have today are filled with errors which scholars call textual variants .
      - For example - let's consider the claim of one skeptical scholar named Bart Ehrman - who declared...

### **SLIDE 30**

“Scholars differ significantly in their estimates—some say there are 200,000 variants known, some say 300,000, some say 400,000 or more! We do not know for sure because, despite impressive developments in computer technology, no one has yet been able to count them all.”

- Errors
  - Now - as we consider the claims of the skeptical scholars - who are quick to insist that the Bible is filled with errors...

### **SLIDE 31**

- ...we should take a moment to acknowledge the fact that - they do have a point.
- As a matter of fact - the textual variants that we find in our modern translations - are actually found in the ancient manuscripts.
- And as we consider the copyist errors — found in the ancient manuscripts of the Bible...

- ...it'll help you to know that - we find three main types of errors - which include:
  - Errors of the eye - that caused the copyist to confuse letters or endings that are similar.
  - There are also Errors of the Pen - which occurred when the copyist carelessly failed to transfer text to the new copy.
  - Then there are Errors of Speech - which would occur when the scribe was confused by the dictation.

- Examples

- With all of this in mind - we should take a moment to consider the sort of textual variants - that we find in the ancient manuscripts.
  - These variants include spelling differences - the order of words - as well as the omission - or the addition of words.
  - And while it's true that there are upwards of 400,000 variants found in the New Testament manuscripts - - it's also true that...
  - ...we have so many manuscripts - that scholars are able to reproduce the original New Testament - to a high degree of certainty.
  - I like the way that Greg Koukl put it - when he declared...

What can we conclude from the evidence? Virtually all of the 400,000 differences in the New Testament documents—spelling errors, inverted words, non-viable variants and the like—are completely inconsequential to the task of reconstructing the original.

- Inerrancy

- Now - I realize that - all of these variants still appear to create a challenge for those who believe in Biblical inerrancy.

- And if you're wondering why I still believe in the inerrancy of the Bible - - then - it'll help you to know that...
- ...when we refer to Biblical inerrancy - - we're actually referring to the original autographs.
- In other words - when the authors who wrote the books of the Bible - created the original autograph...
- ...the work was divinely inspired by God - and therefore - free of any error.
- And listen - this is not only true for the Old Testament - this is also true for the New Testament as well.
- Human Error
  - In order to further make my case - we should consider the promise that the Lord Jesus presented to His disciples.
  - With this as our focus - hold your place there in 1st Thessalonians - and let's turn in our Bibles - to the gospel of John - specifically - John 14.
  - And as you make your way to the 14th chapter of John's gospel account - I wanna take a moment to address the arguments...
  - ...of those who insist that - there's no reason for us to believe the inerrancy of the original autographs...
  - ...and the reason why is because - they were written by men - - and men are prone to making mistakes.
  - And knowing that men are prone to making mistakes - why should we assume that the original autographs - were inerrant?

## ● Application

- Always?

- With this question in mind - I should take a moment to point out that - it is possible for humans to do things - without error.
- For example - there are times when students make a perfect score on a test.
- There are times when people playing putt putt - get a hole in one.
- And there are times - when a gamer clears a level - without any errors at all.
- And so - while it's true that we're prone to making mistake - this doesn't mean that it's impossible to produce a book that is free from error.
- At the same time - it's also important for us to remember that - the men who wrote the books of the Bible...
  - ...we're receiving divine inspiration - from the Holy Spirit of God.
- The Spirit
  - As a matter of fact - let's consider the promise that Jesus presented - here in John 14 - look with me there at verse 26 - where the Lord declared...

### **SLIDE 32**

Jhn 14:26 “...the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

- Here in this verse - we find the Lord Jesus - helping His disciples to understand that...

### **SLIDE 33**

- ...the Holy was going to provide them with perfect recall - - as He reminded them of everything Jesus said.
- That's right - - the Holy Spirit was sent to provide the disciples with the ability - to remember the instructions of our Savior.
- And not only that - but - the Holy Spirit was also sent to provide them with more instruction - according to the will of God the Father.

- In order to prove my point - let's flip forward - to John chapter 16 - where we find Jesus - presenting this promise.

- Guide

- Look with me - there at John chapter 16 - let's begin reading there at verse 12 - where the Lord Jesus declared...

**SLIDE 34-35**

Jhn 16:12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

Jhn 16:13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Jhn 16:14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - assuring his apostles - about the heavenly help that they would receive...

**SLIDE 36**

- ...as the Spirit of truth showed up to provide them with divine guidance.
- Now - as we consider how the Spirit of TRUTH - was sent to guide the disciples - into ALL TRUTH...
- ...then - we can be certain that - He also empowered them to produce perfect - inerrant books...
- ...which are now canonized - in the Definitively inerrant New Testament.

- Transition

- Points

- Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because listen...

1. ...the Bible is not only the Divinely Inspired Word of God...

2. ...and - the Bible is not only the Definitively Inerrant Word of God...

3. ...but - the Bible is also the Doctrinally Infallible Word of God.

### **SLIDE 37**

- In order to make my case - let's make our way back to 1st Thessalonians chapter 2...
- ...where we find Paul - assuring his audience about the doctrinal infallibility of God's word.
- Let's consider how Paul put it - there in verse 13 - where he declared...

### **V. Infallible**

#### **SLIDE 38**

- Text

1Th 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

- Effective
- Here in the final section of this verse - we find Paul - referring to the word of God - as being effective - in the lives of those who believe.

#### **SLIDE 39**

- Now - just to be clear - that phrase - effectively works - was translated from the Greek word - *energeō* - which is the basis for our word - energy.
- The original Greek word was used of that which is powerful.
- Not only that - but - the same Greek word - refers to the specific sort of power...
- ...which is able to effectively energize those who are being empowered.
- For example - when you charge an electric car - with the electricity that comes from - fossil fuels...

- ...the car is then empowered by those fossil fuels - to make it to the next charging station.

- Powerful

- In a similar - yet spiritual way - the word of God effectively empowers us - so that we can accomplish the calling of Christ.
- I like the way that Paul put it - in Hebrews chapter 4 - it's there where he declared...

#### **SLIDE 40**

Heb 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 discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- Christian - listen - the word of God is alive - - and it's powerful...

#### **SLIDE 41**

- ...and it's able to help us to see all of the sinful thoughts - and the immoral intents that we have within our hearts.

- That's right - the truth of God's word is like a light - that exposes all of the deceptive desires - that we still struggle with.

- Not only that - but - the word of God is like a spiritual scalpel - that the Lord uses - to cut out the carnal cancer.

- And with that being the case - those who want to become more like Jesus - should spend time studying the scriptures.

- Disagree

- In order to prove my point - let's take another look at a statement that Paul made - in the second epistle he sent to Timothy.
- Let's turn in our Bibles - to 2nd Timothy chapter 3 - and as you make your way to the third chapter of 2nd Timothy...

- ...I wanna take a moment to address those who like to pick and choose the Biblical instructions that they are willing to embrace.
- For example - there are those who love what the Bible says about the free gift of salvation - which is received by faith.
  - But then - when it comes to the verses that address the sins that they love to engage in...
    - ...that's when they start to question the infallibility of the Bible.
- Infallible
  - For the sake of clarity - it'll help you to know that - the word - infallible - in this context...
    - ...refers to the belief that what the Bible says regarding matters of faith and Christian practice is wholly useful and true.
    - In other words - when we say - the Bible is doctrinally infallible...
      - ...what we're really saying is that - all of the instructions that the Lord has given - are true.
        - And while there are many - who have no problem - rejecting the Biblical doctrines that they don't like...
          - ...Paul encouraged us to realize that - the entire Bible is doctrinally infallible.
  - ALL
    - Let's consider how Paul put it in 2nd Timothy chapter 3 - look with me there at verse 16 - where he declared...

## **SLIDE 42**

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,  
 2Ti 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- Now - as we take another look at these verses - it'll help you to know that - the Greek word which was rendered ALL - literally means - ALL.

## SLIDE 43

- Seriously though - it's a word that the means - the whole enchilada.
- In other words - the entire Bible is not only the work of divine inspiration - and the entire Bible is not only inerrant in it's origin...
  - ...but - the entire Bible also contains all of the infallible doctrines...
    - ...which enable us to be perfected - and prepared for every good work.
- All Doctrines?
  - Now - this is not to suggest that - all doctrines in the Bible - are meant for us.
  - For example - the Israelites were instructed to offer daily sacrifices at the temple - both morning and evening.
  - And while this doctrine was true for them - it no longer applies to believers in the church age.
  - The Israelites were also given dietary restrictions which included a prohibition on pork and shrimp.
  - This is also a true doctrine - that no longer applies to Christians - in the church age.
    - And so - while it's true that every doctrine in the Bible is infallibly true...
      - ...this doesn't mean that every doctrine is for the church age.
- Epistles
  - Now - you might be wondering - how can we know which Biblical doctrines apply to Christians - living in the church age?

- And the answer is simply this - - the church age doctrines are defined - in the New Testament epistles.
- Just to be clear - there are 21 epistles in the New Testament - beginning with Romans - and ending with Jude.
- And it's here in these epistles - where we find Paul - James - Peter - John and Jude...
  - ...presenting us with the infallible doctrines that help us to understand how born again believers should behave.
  - And knowing that the epistles were written for this very reason...
    - ...I encourage every Christian to study the epistles - so that we can grasp God's plan - for the church age.
- Benefit
  - At the same time - - we can also be certain that - ALL scripture was written for our benefit - - including the events recorded in the Old Testament.
  - I like the way that Paul summed it up - in 1st Corinthians 10 - where he declared...

#### **SLIDE 44**

1Co 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

1Co 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

- In other words - the Old Testament was not only inspired by the Holy Spirit...

#### **SLIDE 45**

- ...but - those historic accounts were written - so that we might learn from their examples.
- And while there are many pastors - who avoid the Old Testament altogether - - I'm not one of those guys.

- You see - I truly believe what Paul wrote - when he assured us of the fact that...

## SLIDE 46

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,  
 2Ti 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- Embrace
  - Christian - listen - the believer who wants to be perfected - and prepared for every good work — must first realize that...

## SLIDE 47

- ...the Lord has provided us with all of the doctrines we need - to become more like Jesus.
- And in order to further grasp my point - let's consider the way that James put it in his epistle.
- Let's turn in our Bibles - to James chapter 1 - - because - it's here in the 1st chapter of James...
- ...where we find James - helping his audience to see the connection - between the infallible doctrines of God's word...
- ...and the effective power - by which we are perfected - and prepared for every good work.

## ● Application

- Blessed
  - Let's consider how James put it - here in James chapter 1 - look with me - beginning there at verse 21 - where James declared...

## SLIDE 48-50

Jas 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Jas 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Jas 1:23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

Jas 1:24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

Jas 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

- Christian - listen - those who study God's word - - but then fail to apply the doctrines of God's word to their lives - - are deceiving themselves.

### **SLIDE 51**

- And it's sad to say that - this is something that we all struggle with - for one reason or another.
- For many of us - we're simply struggling with habitual sin - because - we're failing to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Then there are those who are quick to question every Biblical doctrine - that they disagree with.
- And if this sounds like your approach to the Bible - please trust me when I tell you that - the word of God is always right.
- Abide
- With that being the case - I encourage you to remember the promise that Jesus made - in John chapter 8 - where He declared...

### **SLIDE 52**

Jhn 8:31b "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

Jhn 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

- Christian - listen - if you're struggling with habitual sin — then — the best thing that you can do is - abide in the word of God.

### **SLIDE 53**

- And as we abide in the word of God - we begin to discover the infallible doctrines - that effectively work in those who believe.

- In this way - the effective power of God's word - sets us free from the sins that so easily ensnare us.
- And with that being the case - I encourage every believer to abide in the word of God...
  - ...by spending time - every day - studying the infallible doctrines that we find in the Bible.

## VI. Conclusion

### ● Wrap up

- Now - as we begin to wrap up this study - - I wanna take a moment to remind you that...
- ...there's excellent evidence - and there's really good reason for us to believe that...

### **SLIDE 54**

1. ...the Bible is the Divinely Inspired...
2. ...Definitively Inerrant....
3. ...and Doctrinally Infallible - Word of God.

- With all of this being the case - there should be no doubt in our minds that...
- ...the Bible is also the Absolute Authority on every subject that's covered - from cover to cover.
- And whether we're talking about the plan of salvation - or the judicial consequence of everlasting condemnation - - the Bible is right.
- Therefore - those who want to develop a worldview that corresponds with reality should begin with the Bible...

- ...because - the Bible IS the word of God.