

# The Benefits of the Bible

## Isaiah 55:8-11; Various Scriptures



**SERMON SERIES: THE FOUR  
ABSOLUTE ESSENTIALS**

## Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)



- "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.
- <sup>9</sup> "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

## Isaiah 55:10 (NIV)



- As the rain and the snow  
come down from heaven,  
and do not return to it  
without watering the earth  
and making it bud and flourish,  
so that it yields seed for the sower and  
bread for the eater...

## Isaiah 55:11 (NIV)



- <sup>11</sup> ...so is my word that goes out from my mouth:

It will not return to me empty,  
but will accomplish what I desire  
and achieve the purpose for which I sent  
it.

# Sources of Authority



- In Acts 2:42 we are told that the early believers, “*were continually devoting themselves to the apostle’s teaching.*”
- Before we can become growing, maturing disciples of Jesus Christ, we must decide who and what will control the decision-making process in our lives.

## Sources of Authority (cont'd)



- For some **rationalism or reason** is their source of authority.
- There are two problems with this: your mind is finite and it is sinful.
- For others, **emotions** is their source of authority.
- Emotions are unreliable, they are inconsistent.

## Sources of Authority (cont'd)



- Still others rely on their **conscience** to be their source of authority.
- The problem with this is that your conscience reflects what it has been fed.
- There is only one source of authority on which the decisions of life should rest and that is the Word of God.

# I. Revelation



- Revelation is **divine disclosure**.
- Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV):  
*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,"  
declares the LORD.*
- 9 *"As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

# Revelation has 3 Characteristics



- *It is Personal*
- Isaiah 55:11. God's Word is that which "*goes out from [His] mouth.*"
- God's revelation is intensely personal. It is intimately tied to His Person.

## 3 Characteristics of Revelation (cont'd)



- Hebrews 4:12-13 (NIV), *“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”*
- <sup>13</sup>*Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”*

## 3 Characteristics of Revelation (cont'd)



- It is **Purposeful**
- Isaiah 55:11 (NIV):  
*“It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”*
- 2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV), *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable...”*

## 3 Characteristics of Revelation (cont'd)



- *It is Particular*
- John 21:25 (NIV), *“Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written.”*
- Revelation is particular because it is selective.

## 3 Characteristics of Revelation (cont'd)



- Deuteronomy 29:29 (NIV) says, *“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.”*
- It is **Perfect**
- John 17:17 says, *“...your word is truth.”*

## II. Inspiration



- Inspiration means:
- ***“God-Breathed”***
- 2 Timothy 3:16 says that *“all Scripture is inspired by God.”*
- The Greek word for ***inspired*** is made up of two words, the word for “God” and a word that means “to breathe out” or “exhale.”

## Inspiration means (cont'd)



- ***Delivered Through Messengers***
- Acts 1:16 (NIV), *"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus..."*

## Inspiration means (cont'd)



- ***Guarded by the Spirit***
- God inspired imperfect men to record His revelation. That means these men had to let the Spirit rule in their lives.
- Following Christ in discipleship means doing what the writers of Scripture did: submitting to the Holy Spirit of God and letting Him direct us wherever He desires.

## III. Illumination



- The word ***illumination*** simply means ***enlightenment***.
- It is the work of the Holy Spirit that allows us to understand, experience, and apply the truth of God to our lives.
- Ephesians 1:18 (NIV), “*I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...*”

# Illumination involves:



- ***The Anointing***
- 1 John 2:27 says that every Christian has what John calls “the anointing”-that is, the ability to receive, understand, and apply spiritual truth.
- Psalm 119:18 (NIV), “*Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.*”
- Psalm 119:89 (NIV), “*Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me.*”

## Illumination involves (cont'd)



- The Spirit of God shines His light on the Word of God.
- When the Spirit of God hovers and the Word of God speaks, order comes out of chaos.
- That's what happened in creation. The earth was “formless and void” before the Spirit and the light came in Genesis 1:2.

## Illumination involves (cont'd)



- You move from chaos in your life to order when you ask God to illuminate His Word and submit to it in your heart.
- ***The Process***
- Luke 24:13-35, the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

## Illumination involves (cont'd)



- Jesus said to them in Luke 24:25, *"How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!"*
- If you want the illumination of the Holy Spirit you must:
  - ***1. Have an ear to hear what God is saying.***

## If you want illumination (cont'd)



- ***2. The will to be transformed.***

- Luke 24:28 it says that Jesus “acted as though He would go farther.” But they begged Him, “stay with us” (v.29).

- ***3. A desire to worship.***

- Luke 24:30 (NIV), “*When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.*”

# Invitation

